

24. The jails and dispensaries were also inspected at each of the above places, besides such of the registration offices as time permitted. Municipal matters were also looked into and the municipal offices inspected. I also made thorough inspections of the offices of the Managers of the Paigumberpur Ward's estate in Darbhanga, the Deo Kumar and Dharm Kumar Ward's estate in Shahabad, and of the Tikari 9-annas Ward's estate at Gaya.

II.—COLLECTORS.

25. *Patna*.—The Collector, Mr. O'Donnell, inspected his office during the half-year ending 30th September 1894, but the second half-yearly inspection could not be made owing to his sudden and serious illness.

26. The Barh and Bihar subdivisional offices were each inspected by the Collector twice, viz., once in September and June, respectively, and again in December 1894. The Dinapore Cantonment Magistrate's office was inspected in July 1894, and again in January 1895.

27. *Gaya*.—Mr. Macpherson inspected the office at head-quarters twice during the year, viz., once in April and May, and again in October and November 1894. He says that, properly speaking, the former inspection belonged to the previous year, but that he could not arrange a further inspection after the close of the touring season, as he was too busy with matters connected with His Excellency's visit to Gaya, and with the usual pressure of work after the touring season. He adds that any inspection would, moreover, have been quite superfluous, as the Commissioner thoroughly inspected every branch of the office in February. In this I agree, especially as another partial inspection of the office had been made by the Officiating Commissioner, Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, in September.

28. The several subdivisional offices were inspected as follows:—

	By Mr. Drake-Brockman.	By Mr. Macpherson.
Aurangabad	... In August 1894.	In December 1894.
Nawada	... Ditto "	In January 1895.
Jahanabad	... Ditto "	In February "

The Jahanabad office was only partially inspected at the second time in February 1895, as Mr. Macpherson was called in by me to Gaya for work on the Maintenance of Records' Bill, and also for arrangements for the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy.

29. *Shahabad*.—The head-quarters offices at Arrah were inspected by Officiating Collector, Mr. Oldham, in September 1894, and again by Mr. Marindin in March 1895.

30. The several subdivisional offices were thus inspected during the year:—

	By Mr. Oldham.	By Mr. Marindin.
Buxar	... ..	{ 28th July 1894. 5th March 1895.
Sasaram	... ..	{ 23rd July 1894. January 1895.
Bhabua	... 17th September 1894.	7th February 1895.

31. *Saran*.—Mr. Slack held his first inspection of the offices at head-quarters in September 1894, and his second inspection in March 1895.

32. He also inspected the subdivisional offices of his district, viz., Siwan in December 1894 and January 1895, and Gopalganj in April 1894 and April 1895, which latter inspection, however, belongs, strictly speaking, to the current year.

33. *Champaran*.—The offices at head-quarters were twice inspected by Mr. Blyth in September and March 1894.

34. The subdivisional office at Bettiah was also twice inspected by the same officer in the same months.

35. *Muzaffarpur*.—The Sadar offices were inspected by Mr. Lea in September 1894 and by Mr. Hare in April 1895.

36. The subdivisional offices at Hajipur and Sitamarhi were also twice inspected during the year, viz., once in September 1894 by Mr. Lea, and again in March 1895 by Mr. Hare.

KANGNI OR KAKUN, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria italica</i> .)			GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arietinum</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	17	12	17	8	17	12	...	...
...	18	0	18	0	12	12	...	...
...	16	0	16	0	16	0	...	...
...	16	8	15	0	16	0	...	...
...	16	0	16	0	15	0	...	...

...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	17	0	...	...
10	0	10	0	10	5	15	3	15	3	16	0
...	...	...	...	20	4	20	0	16	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	20	0	20	0	17	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	16	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	11	8	11	8	11	8	...	...

...	...	...	...	19	8	19	8	15	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	17	12	18	0	14	10	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	14	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	12	8	13	0	12	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	14	8	16	0	16	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	8	16	8	13	8	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	13	8	...	...

...	...	...	...	14	0	14	0	14	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	12	8	12	8	12	8	...	...
...	...	...	...	13	5	13	5	10	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	13	4	14	0	13	8	...	...

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains, Firewood, and Salt in the Head-quarters

		QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLU, (Sorghum Vulgare.)				
Number	DISTRICTS.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.		
BENGAL—continued.																		
CURRAGONG DIVISION.	24	Tippora	10 0	10 0	6 8	...	...	...	11 0	10 10	8 8	17 5	20 0	11 0	...	...	...
	25	Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	15 0	10 8	17 0	16 0	15 0	...	...	...
	26	Chittagong*	...	9 12	9 8	...	...	...	11 8	11 0	...	13 0	12 12	...	...	...	...
BIHAR.																		
PATNA DIVISION.	27	Patna	18 4 15 0	18 0 White. 16 0	17 0 16 0	23 0	24 0	22 0	12 0	12 0	10 0	20 8	19 8	15 0	20 0	24 0	22 0	
	28	Gaya	18 0	13 0	15 0	22 12	23 8	19 4	10 0	9 0	9 0	17 0	17 0	13 8	17 4	17 4	16 8	
	29	Shahabad	13 0	13 0	15 0	20 0	20 0	...	0 8 0	9 0	19 0	19 0	15 0	...	...	...	...
	30	Saran	15 0	16 0	15 0	21 10	21 8	22 0	11 0	11 0	10 0	20 0	16 0	12 13	...	...	...
	31	Champaran	17 8	17 0	14 4	30 0	29 4	...	9 8	8 8	8 8	20 0	17 8	16 0	...	...	...
	32	Muzaffarpur	15 0	14 8	14 0	26 0	25 0	18 0	9 0	8 0	7 8	15 8	15 0	12 15	...	...	...
	33	Darbhanga	13 0	13 0	13 14	18 0	25 0	...	10 8	10 8	10 0	16 0	18 8	14 4	...	...	...
BAGALPUR DIVISION.	34	Monghyr	15 8	15 8	14 10	24 8	24 8	18 12	12 0	12 0	9 8	15 8	15 8	11 14	...	...	...
	35	Bhaga'pur	16 6	16 6	14 8	22 4	23 11	17 10	13 14	13 14	11 0	18 16	18 15	13 14	...	...	...
	36	Purnea (Kasba)*	...	16 0	13 0	...	...	...	13 0	12 0	...	20 0	14 0	...	...	...	...
	37	Malda (English Bazar)*	...	18 0	14 0	...	...	...	12 0	9 0	...	16 0	11 8	...	...	...	...
	38	Sonthal Pargana.	11 8	11 8	12 0	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	12 0	18 0	18 0	14 8	...	...	...
ORISSA.																		
ORISSA DIVISION.	39	Cuttack	11 13	11 13	13 2	...	...	...	11 13	11 13	10 8	21 0	21 0	16 7	...	...	...
	40	Balasore	16 0	16 0	16 0	8 9	8 0	8 0	17 0	17 0	10 0	22 0	22 0	14 0 to 15 0	...	...	...
	41	Puri	11 0	10 8	11 13	...	...	...	13 2	13 2	9 8	23 0	23 0	16 0	...	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.																		
CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.	42	Hazaribagh	10 0	10 0	11 0	16 0	13 4	15 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	16 0	17 8	14 0	...	...	...
	43	Lohardaga (Ranchi).	11 0	11 0 Red. White.	10 8	16 0	16 0	12 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	17 0	17 0	16 0	...	...	...
	44	Palamu	7 0 to 10 0 10 0 to 10 0 15 8	7 0 to 7 4 to 10 0 to 9 8 15 8	7 4 to 9 8	19 2	20 4	18 0	9 9	9 0	10 11	22 15	22 15	12 15	...	...	...
	45	Manbhum	13 4	13 4	14 0	22 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	15 0 to 17 0	15 0 to 16 0	11 0	18 0 to 19 0	17 0 to 19 0	14 0 to 17 0
	46	Singhbhum	14 0	14 0	12 0	...	...	...	12 0	12 0	10 0	18 0	18 0	11 0	...	...	...

* Present return not received.

R In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Brahmanbaria 10 seers and Chandpur 9 seers.
 S At Feni Hât the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 T In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Nawada 9 seers, Jahanabad 10 seers, and Aurangabad 10½ seers.
 V In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Buxar 10½ seers, Sasaram 10½ seers, and Manbhum 11 seers.
 W In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Siwan 10 seers 14 chitaks and Gopalganj (Miranj) 12 seers.
 X In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Hajipur 10½ seers and Sitamarhi 11 seers.
 In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Samaatipur 11 seers and Madhubani 10 seers.

CALCUTTA

The 8th October 1895.

SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS

BAJRA OR COMBU. (<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i> .)			MARUA OR RAGI. (<i>Eleusine Corocana</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.

Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...
...
...

...	...	...	30	0	29	0	22	0
...	...	...	28	4	25	4	24	0
...
...	...	...	30	0	25	0	24	0
...	...	...	30	8	30	0	26	0
...	...	...	27	8	27	8	26	0
...	...	...	32	8	30	0	28	8

...
...
...
...
...	...	...	20	0	...	...	...	...
...

...
...
...

...	...	...	25	0	24	0	19	8
...	...	...	29	0	28	0	29	0
...	...	...	27	0	27	0	...	...
...
...

KANGNI OR KAKUN, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria italica</i> .)			GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA, KADALAY OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arislinum</i> .)		
--------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.
-----------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------------

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	13	5	13	5	11	0
...	12	0	12	0	11	0
...	12	0	11	4

30	0	25	0	20	0	20	8	21	0	22	0
14	4	16	4	15	8	18	4	18	4	19	0
...	...	...	...	18	0	25	0	18	0	...	...
20	0	17	0	14	0	19	0	19	8	19	0
...	...	...	...	20	8	19	8	17	8	...	...
...	...	...	...	18	0	17	8	17	8	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	0	17	8	17	8	...	...

13	8	13	8	...	20	8	20	8	19	0
...	...	...	...	...	20	3	20	3	18	15
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	0	13	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	0	13	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	0	15	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	0	...	...

...	...	...	...	15	12	15	2	13	2
...	...	...	...	15	0	15	0	13	0
...	...	...	...	14	0	14	0	13	0
...	...	...	...	14	7	14	0	110	8

...	...	...	...	15	0	15	0	15	0
...	...	...	...	13	0	12	0	12	0
...	...	...	...	14	1	15	3	13	3
...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	15	0
...	...	...	...	12	0	12	0	12	0

Station Basars of the Districts of Bengal on the 30th September 1895—(concluded).

												WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.			DISTRICTS.	Number.	
INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (Zea Mays.)			ARHAR OR TURB, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus indicus.)			FIREWOOD.			SALT.			SALT.					
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.			
S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
...	...	...	6 0	6 10	8 0	...	...	...	R 10 0	10 0	10 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	Tippera.	24
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S 10 0	10 0	10 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	Noakhali.	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 0 90 0	...	10 12	10 0	...	3 8 0	3 10 0	Chittagong.	26
BENGAL—concluded.																	
BIHAR.																	
29 0	28 0	21 0	21 0	23 0	22 0	130 0	130 0	130 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 7 0	Patna.	27	
22 8	23 4	18 0	19 0	19 0	21 0	140 0	160 0	160 0	T 10 10	10 8	10 8	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 11 0	Gaya.	28	
24 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	120 0	120 0	120 0	U 11 0	11 0	10 8	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	Shahabad.	29	
30 0	25 0	20 0	21 0	21 0	19 8	160 0	160 0	160 0	V 10 8	10 8	10 12	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 10 3	Saran.	30	
30 0	26 0	26 0	23 8	24 4	17 8	180 0	180 0	180 0	...	10 8	10 8	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 11 0	Champan.	31	
30 0	25 8	24 0	23 0	24 0	17 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	W 11 0	11 0	11 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	Muzaffarpur.	32	
30 0	28 0	25 4	20 0	21 8	18 0	160 0	160 0	176 0	X 10 8	10 0	10 0	3 10 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	Darbhanga.	33	
30 0	30 0	20 0	19 8	19 8	17 12	168 0	168 0	126 0 168 0	Y 10 8	10 8	10 8	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 12 0 4 0 0	Monghyr.	34	
30 4	29 0	22 1	18 15	18 15	18 15	151 8	151 8	151 8	Z 10 11	10 11	10 11	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 11 0	Bhagalpur.	35	
...	...	...	15 0	18 0	...	320 0	320 0	...	a 10 0	10 0	...	3 10 6	3 10 0	...	Purnea (Kasba).	36
...	32 0	...	12 0	11 0	...	160 0	160 0	...	...	10 0	9 8	...	...	...	Malda (English Bazar).	37
38 0	23 0	42 8	18 0	18 0	17 0	120 0	120 0	120 0	b 10 8	10 8	10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 14 0	Southal Parganas.	38	
ORISSA.																	
...	...	...	17 1	17 1	15 12	80 0	80 0	80 0	c 10 12	10 12	10 12	3 7 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	Cuttack.	39
...	...	...	11 0	11 0	11 8	120 0	120 0	130 0	d 10 12	10 12	10 8	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 8 0	Balasore.	40
...	...	...	14 7	13 0	13 10	80 0	80 0	80 0	...	11 8	12 0	3 5 0	3 4 0	3 3 0	Puri.	41
CHOTA NAGPUR.																	
18 0	18 0	16 0	15 0	14 0	16 0	240 0	240 0	240 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	4 7 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	Hazaribagh.	42
18 0	18 0	16 0	10 0	6 8	10 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	Large. Small.	9 8	9 8	9 0	4 4 0	4 4 0	4 4 0	Lohardaga (Ranchi).	43
27 0	30 6	20 4	16 14	16 14	14 10	9 0	8 7	8 11	Palamau.	44
...	16 0	16 0	16 0	10 10	10 10	10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 12 0	Manbhum.	45
...	16 0	16 0	12 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 6 0	Singbhum.	46

Y In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Begusarai 11 seers and Jamui 10½ seers.

Z In the Banka, Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.

a In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kishanganj 9 seers and Araria 10 seers.

b In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Deoghur 10½ seers, Rajmahal 9 seers, Pakour 11 seers, Godda and Jamtara not reported.

c In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Jajpur 9 seers, Kendrapara 9 seers, and Banki 11 seers.

d At Bhadrak the retail price of salt is 9 seers per rupee.

Published for general information.

O. E. BUCKLAND,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (wholesale) of Food-grains, Firewood, and Salt

Number.	MARKS.	WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE COMMON.		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
		R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.
1	Calcutta ...	3 5 0	3 5 0	3 0 0	2 8 0	2 8 0	2 0 0	5 2 0	5 2 0	5 3 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 0 0
2	Sirajganj ...	2 8 0	2 5 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	3 4 0	2 14 0	5 4 0	2 9 0	2 8 0	3 6 0
3	Dacca ...	2 14 0	2 14 0	2 14 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 4 0	2 3 0	2 5 0	3 3 0
4	Narayanganj*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 4 0	...	...	3 12
5	Chittagong*	...	3 14 0	3 14 0	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 4 0	...	2 14 0	2 14 0
6	Patna ...	2 2 6	2 3 0	2 5 0	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 12 0	3 4 0	3 4 0	3 14 0	1 14 6	2 0 0	2 10 0
	Red wheat.	2 10 0	2 7 6	2 7 0									
7	Cuttack ...	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 10 0	1 15 0	1 15 0	2 6 0
8	Belasore ...	2 8 0	2 8 0	2 8 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 12 0	2 8 0	2 8 0	3 14 0	1 12 0	1 12 0	2 12 0
9	Puri ...	3 5 0	3 8 0	3 5 0	...	...	...	2 13 0	2 13 0	4 4 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	2 5 0

* Present return not received.

CALCUTTA,
The 8th October 1895.

PRICES PER MAUND

JOWAR OR CHOLUM. (<i>Sorghum Fulgore.</i>)			BAJRA OR CUMBU. (<i>Pennisetum typhif- deum.</i>)		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.
2 5 0 2	5 0 2	0 0	2 1 2 0	2 1 1 0	2 0 0
251	269	225	275	228	221
250	251	223	255	225	222
257	255	221	252	224	223
257	259	229	256	222	223
1 0 0 1	0 0 1	0 1 2 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
255	255	226	255	222	222
255	256	227	255	225	222
255	255	225	259	225	225

OF 40 SEERS.

MARUA OR FAGI. (<i>Kleusine Coromana.</i>)			KANONI OR KAKUN, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria italica.</i>)		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.	R.A.P.
...	4 0 04	0 03	14 0
...
...
...
...
...
1 5 01	5 61	12 0	1 5 01	0 01	14 6
...
...
...

in the undermentioned *Marts* of Bengal on the 30th September 1895.

GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA KADALAY OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer Arietinum.</i>)			INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (<i>Zea Mays.</i>)			ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (<i>Cajanus indicus.</i>)			FIREWOOD.			SALT.			MARTS.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	
2 10 0	2 10 0	2 8 0	2 7 0	2 7 0	2 4 0	2 13 0	2 13 0	2 2 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 6 9	3 9 0	3 9 0	3 6 0	Calcutta.
2 10 0	2 4 0	2 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 6 0	0 6 6	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 9 0	Sirajganj.
9 0	2 9 0	2 12 0	...	...	...	2 8 0	2 8 0	2 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 9	0 5 0	3 9 0	3 9 0	4 0 0	Dacca.
	8 0 0	...	...	...	...			3 4 0			0 5 0			3 8 0	Narayanganj.
	3 8 0	3 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 6 0	...	3 8 0	3 10 0	Chittagong.
14 0	1 14 0	1 12 0	1 6 0	1 6 0	1 14 0	1 13 0	1 11 0	1 12 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 7 0	Patna.
Biri or kalai.	10 0	2 10 0	3 0 0	...	...	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	3 7 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	Cuttack.
Chhola.	10 0	2 10 0	2 14 0	...	...	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	...	...	...	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 8 0	Balasore.
Biri or kalai.	12 0	2 12 0	...	...	...							
10 0	2 10 0	3 12 0	...	...	...	2 10 0	2 13 0	2 14 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	3 5 0	3 4 0	3 3 0	Puri.

O. E. BUCKLAND,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

**SUMMARY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL AND RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN IN BENGAL, AND OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVA-
TIONS TAKEN IN ASSAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, 8 A.M., SATURDAY,
THE 5TH OF OCTOBER 1895.**

TOWARDS the end of the previous week a low-pressure area, which had been over the south of the Bay for some days, began to develop into a disturbance of greater severity. The diffused depression had hitherto appeared to be moving towards the Madras coast, and on the 29th September it showed no signs of changing its line of motion. The changes of pressure and of the wind circulation give little information as to what was going on in the centre of the Bay, but a rapid rise of pressure in the south of Burma on the 29th led to much steeper gradients in the south and south-east. The stormy weather behind the depression was shown by the increase of wind velocity at Diamond Island. It rose to an average of 26 miles an hour on the 29th, the highest recorded during the present monsoon season. The depression was no doubt deepening near the centre, and the rapid rise in Burma was probably the cause, or at least the indication that it had begun to move with greater rapidity than had previously been the case.

About that time a local disturbance caused a good deal of rain in the north-east of the province, where pressure was rising briskly, but to what it was due it is difficult to say—probably to the interaction of the changing winds set up by the increasing pressure. On the 29th very little rain was falling in any of the districts except North Bengal, but there general heavy rain fell, especially in the Rangpur district, where the falls varied from 1 to 5 inches. On the 30th a slight fall of pressure was shown over those parts, while elsewhere it rose moderately to rapidly.

The rapid rise in the south-east of the Bay continued on the 30th, and the depression was much nearer the west coast, but moving in a more northerly direction. Winds from being north-easterly in the Circars had become north-west, and the centre of the disturbance appeared likely to cross the coast somewhere between False Point and Visagapatam. There was still no indication of the depth of the depression, as pressure readings were within .04 inch of the normal all round the coast except in the south of Burma, where there was excess of about .1 inch. On the 1st of October the centre was a little to the south-east of False Point, and it then appeared to be following a line curving to the east. As the depression approached the coast line, pressure fell rapidly—first at Gopelpur and False Point, and then over the whole of the north-west angle of the Bay and in Lower Bengal and Orissa. The rate of motion was much higher than usual, as the centre, from being to the south-east of False Point at 8 A.M. on the 1st, was near Saugor Island about 8 P.M. and Narayanganj on the following morning. The disturbance evidently developed after entering the north-west angle of the Bay, and also during the night of the 1st while passing over Lower Bengal. The fall of pressure at Narayanganj on the morning of the 2nd was more than half an inch, and the changes were large not only in South-West and East Bengal, but also in the north-east angle of the Bay as far south as Akyab.

Stormy weather accompanied the depression in its course over the Bay; and as the centre passed over the Sandheads, and very close to Saugor Island, the strength of the storm can readily be compared with what it was in East Bengal and the north-east angle of the Bay on the following morning. It may have been partly due to the curved path taken by the storm centre that the winds attained to the strength they had at the mouth of the Megna and inland as far as Narayanganj, but the depression appears also to have deepened, as the lowest pressure on the 1st was 29.443 inches at False Point, and at Narayanganj on the 2nd 29.264, while over an area extending from Mymensingh to Chittagong and from Jessore to Comilla the depth was as great as at False Point on the previous day.

As the depression was moving very rapidly to the east, it soon reached the hilly ground beyond East Bengal, and soon disappeared. On the morning of the 3rd the only trace of its existence was a rather rapid fall of pressure at Sibesar and in Bihar, and a large defect over the whole of the province. The rise of pressure which followed the disturbance continued steadily till the end of the week, and by that time readings were everywhere above the normal.

During the passage of the depression across Lower Bengal heavy rain fell; but as it moved quickly, and, as always happens when a storm goes eastward, the weather moderated very rapidly, the quantity of rain was small compared with the intensity of the storm. It was only in East Bengal where general heavy rain fell. On the 2nd falls varied from 1 to 7 inches over the whole of East Bengal, and heavy falls were recorded in Tippera on the 3rd, the heaviest being 4 at Comilla and 6 inches at Agartala. Rainfall had almost entirely ceased in the western districts on the 3rd, and very little fell anywhere after the 3rd.

Pressure.—During the first two days pressure changes were small, but on the approach of the depression on the 1st of October, a very rapid fall became general over Orissa, South Bengal, and the north of the Bay. The subsequent rise was not so rapid, but it continued steadily, and by the end of the week the distribution had recovered, and readings were above the normal by small amounts increasing towards the north. As the defect in pressure continued for some days, mean pressure values for the week are all below the normal by amounts varying from .02 inch in Assam and Bihar to .1 inch in East Bengal.

Temperature—Was high in the west and centre of the province at the beginning of the week, and nearly normal in the eastern districts. As the sky clouded over with the approach of the depression, the days became cooler and mean temperature was below the normal till nearly the end of the week. On the 5th, the last day of the week, there was again a considerable excess in the south of the province, especially in Chota Nagpur and South-West Bengal. Mean temperature for the week is in excess in Chota Nagpur, normal in Bihar, and below in the other districts, by half a degree in Orissa and South-West Bengal, and by more than 1° in East and North Bengal and Assam.

Rainfall.—The disturbance, as stated above, caused heavy rain while it was crossing the north-west angle of the Bay and Lower Bengal, especially in East Bengal on the 2nd and 3rd. From the 30th to the 2nd rainfall was fairly general in all districts, but after that very little fell except in the extreme east. Chota Nagpur and Bihar received less than one inch on an average, and less than the usual amount by about a third of an inch. In South-West Bengal the fall was 2·45, North Bengal 3·06, Orissa 3·39, and East Bengal 5·85 inches. All these amounts are considerably above the normal, the difference varying from 1·4 inch in South-West and North Bengal to 3·8 inches in East Bengal.

The following table gives the summary of the temperature and rainfall data of each of the six meteorological divisions of the province for the week ending Saturday, the 5th of October 1895 :—

METEOROLOGICAL DIVISIONS.	TEMPERATURE.						RAINFALL.									
	Highest observed during week.	Lowest observed during week.	Averages for week.			Average mean of week above or below normal mean of week.	Of week.			Rainy days.			Since 1st of month.		Since 1st of May 1884.	
			Of highest of each day.	Of lowest of each day.	Of mean for each day.		Average.	Normal average.	Variation.	Average number in week.	Normal average number in week.	Variation.	Average.	Normal average.	Average.	Normal average.
South-West Bengal	84·3	73·9	87·6	78·7	83·0	-0·3	3·45	1·04	+1·41	3·26	1·00	+0·76	3·25	0·70	25·41	64·06
North Bengal	82·3	70·6	86·3	75·1	84·8	-1·0	3·06	1·00	+1·47	3·18	1·08	+1·08	0·93	1·15	61·76	70·20
East Bengal	81·3	68·8	86·4	75·9	81·3	-1·1	5·35	1·56	+3·79	3·12	1·91	+1·21	5·10	1·11	56·48	78·72
Bihar	86·0	69·2	80·4	75·3	83·9	0	0·90	1·73	-0·83	1·33	1·08	+0·45	0·40	0·99	39·25	50·53
Orissa	83·3	74·0	88·6	77·3	83·0	-0·3	3·20	1·05	+1·74	3·20	3·01	+0·19	2·30	1·10	56·15	64·12
Chota Nagpur	83·9	67·8	87·6	71·9	79·7	+1·4	0·86	0·95	-0·09	0·83	1·43	-0·61	0·26	0·98	26·75	43·00
Assam	84·5	70·0	85·7	74·0	79·9	-1·6										

* Daintonagj not included.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,
The 8th October 1895.

C. LITTLE,
Offg. Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 29th September to 5th October 1895.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fah.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1895.		Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
September	29th	29.829	84.6	90.3	11.5	78.8	87.6	82.5	1.043	80.5	80	Nil
"	30th	.872	82.5	89.3	13.7	75.6	84.6	80.5	.987	78.9	83	0.14
October	1st	.724	78.0	80.1	4.3	75.8	77.6	76.6	.900	76.0	95	0.90
"	2nd	.681	81.6	87.9	12.6	75.3	79.3	76.6	.877	75.3	88	1.32
"	3rd	.710	83.9	91.6	15.5	76.1	87.2	81.5	1.001	79.8	77	0.07
"	4th	.818	86.3	92.8	13.1	79.7	89.5	82.9	1.037	80.3	75	Nil
"	5th	.865	87.3	92.3	11.0	81.3	89.1	83.4	1.069	81.3	73	Nil

									Inches.
The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days									29.771
The mean temperature of the seven days									83.5
The extreme variation of temperature									17.5
The maximum temperature									92.8
The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days									82%
The total fall of rain from 29th September to 5th October 1895									2.43
The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.									

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, INDIA,
The 7th October 1895.

J. H. GILLILAND,
For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate return of traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 21st September 1895, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 21ST SEPTEMBER 1895.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 22ND SEPTEMBER 1894.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	679	1,98,550	2,523	581	84,400	1,271
Jute	160	36,375	612	141	41,775	773
Firewood	78	71,175	811	81	37,775	571
Other articles	667	1,90,087	2,582	805	1,94,700	2,848
Total	1,584	4,96,187	6,528	1,608	3,58,650	5,463

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate return of traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 28th September 1895, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 28TH SEPTEMBER 1895.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 1894.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	618	1,04,675	1,860	505	97,175	1,690
Jute	232	69,800	1,191	235	55,750	1,008
Firewood	139	71,400	1,055	114	70,745	1,125
Other articles	695	1,34,525	1,824	675	1,70,290	2,496
Total	1,679	3,80,400	5,930	1,529	3,93,960	6,259

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate return of traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 5th October 1895, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 5TH OCTOBER 1895.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 6TH OCTOBER 1894.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	560	1,02,700	1,757	409	58,157	916
Jute	226	70,065	1,176	191	78,225	1,426
Firewood	84	63,475	949	85	47,075	680
Other articles	470	90,395	1,240	753	2,20,713	2,821
Total	1,340	3,26,635	5,122	1,438	4,04,170	5,843



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER, 16, 1895.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
RESOLUTION on the Annual General Administration Report of the Bhagalpur Division for the year 1894-95 ...	2245	ABSTRACT of the Results of the Barometrical and Thermometric Observations taken at 10 a.m. at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, in the month of September 1895 ...	2315
Resolution reviewing the reports on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act in Bengal during 1894-95 ...	2297	Results of the Barometrical and Thermometric Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 6th to 12th October 1895 ...	2315
Working of the Bengal Jute Warehouse and Fire-Brigade Act, I of 1893, in the Comipur-Chitpur and Maniktois Municipalities ...	2302	Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from 6th to 12th October 1895 ...	2316
Weather and Crop Report for the week ending 14th October 1895 ...	2305	Vital Statistics of the Districts of Bengal for the month of August 1895 ...	2317
Statement showing the stocks of Rice in and around Calcutta ...	2307	Areas leased for irrigation up to the end of August 1895 ...	2321
Meteorological Report of the Province of Bengal for the week ending Saturday, the 12th of October 1895 ...	2308	Abstract statement showing Tollage on Canals in Bengal classed as Major and Minor works for the month of August 1895 ...	2321
Statement of Rainfall in Bengal for the week ending Saturday (8 a.m.), the 12th of October 1895 ...	2310	Circular and Eastern Canals for the week ending Saturday, the 12th October 1895 ...	2322
Abstract of the results of Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory in the month of September 1895 ...	2314	East Indian Railway for the month of August 1895 ...	2323
		Weekly return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways ...	2325

RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE BHAGALPUR DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1894-95.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT—MISCELLANEOUS.

Darjeeling, the 14th October 1895.

RESOLUTION—No. 240T.—G.

THE Lieutenant-Governor directs the publication for general information of the Commissioner's Report on the General Administration of the Bhagalpur Division for the year 1894-95.

2. The only remarks to which His Honour desires to draw attention are those on the certificate procedure in paragraph 72 of the Report. Steps should be taken by District Officers to check the tendency of Collectorate peons to scamp the service of notices and sale proclamations.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. E. BUCKLAND,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

INDEX.

Section.	SUBJECT.	Paras.
I.—Charge—		3
(a) Division		3
(b) Districts		3
(c) Subdivisions		3
II.—Tours and inspection of offices—		4
(a) Tour of Commissioner		5—9
(b) Tours of Collectors or Deputy Commissioners		10
(c) Tours of Subdivisional Officers		11
(d) Inspection of district offices and treasuries by—		12
(1) Commissioner		13
(2) Collector		14—15
(e) Inspection of subdivisional offices and treasuries by—		16—26
(1) Commissioner		27
(2) Collector		28—34
III.—Weather and crops		35—36
IV.—Public health		37—42
V.—Material condition of the people		43—48
VI.—Emigration and immigration		49
VII.—Prices of food and labour		50—51
VIII.—Manufactures and mines		52—53
IX.—Trade and commerce		54
X.—Administrative changes		55—57
XI.—Statistical enquiries		58—59
XII.—Civil justice		60
XIII.—Crime		61—62
XIV.—Police		63—65
XV.—Criminal justice		66
XVI.—Registration of deeds		67—80
XVII.—Condition of the Division as regards land and land revenue administration		81—83
XVIII.—Attached Estates, including Court of Wards		84
XIX.—Excise		85
XX.—Stamps		86
XXI.—Income-tax		87
XXII.—Monetary arrangements		88—94
XXIII.—Railways and other public works		95—97
XXIV.—Communications		98
XXV.—Working of the Lodging-house Act		99—106
XXVI.—Education		107—108
XXVII.—Dispensaries and hospitals		109
XXVIII.—Libraries		110
XXIX.—Museums		111—117
XXX.—Local Self-Government Institutions		118
XXXI.—Employment of Muhammadans		119
XXXII.—Post Office and Telegraph		120
XXXIII.—Zamindari d&k		121
Fairs		122
Pounds		123
XXXIV.—Social and political institutions		124
State of public feeling and the public press		125
XXXV.—Subordinate executive establishment and character of officers		126
XXXVI.—Conduct of zamindars		126
XXXVII.—General remarks		127

ANNUAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE BHAGALPUR
DIVISION FOR 1894-95.

No. 185G., dated Bhagalpur, the 29th June 1895.

From—G. TOYNBEE, Esq., Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division and Sonthal
Parganas,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual General Administration Report
of this Division for the year 1894-95.

2. The reports of the District Officers were all received on or before the prescribed date, except that of the Magistrate-Collector of Purnea, which was received on the 3rd June. Numerous references had to be made and further information and explanation had to be called for. The reports were not all complete until the 29th instant, and the last were those of the District Officers of the Sonthal Parganas and Purnea.

I.—CHARGE.

(a) Division.

3. I held the office of Commissioner of the Division throughout the year.
The following tabular statements give the details of charge of districts and subdivisions:—

(b) District Charge.

DISTRICT.	Name of Officer.	PERIOD OF CHARGE—	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Monghyr	Mr. H. A. D. Phillips ...	1st April 1894 ...	31st March 1895.
Bhagalpur	„ F. H. B. Skrine ...	{ 1st „ „ ...	3rd April 1894.
	„ L. P. Shirres ...	{ 9th November „ ...	31st March 1895.
	„ H. F. T. Maguire ...	{ 4th April „ ...	31st May 1894.
	„ C. J. S. Faulder ...	{ 1st June „ ...	8th November „
Purnea	„ E. M. Konstam ...	{ 1st April „ ...	24th July „
	„ H. F. T. Maguire ...	{ 26th July „ ...	16th November „
	„ U. C. Batavyal ...	{ 17th November „ ...	31st March 1895.
Malda	„ J. C. Price ...	{ 1st April „ ...	14th December 1894.
	„ W. H. Vincent ...	{ 15th December „ ...	31st March 1895.
	„ F. R. Roe ...	{ 1st April „ ...	7th April 1894.
Sonthal Parganas ...	„ R. Carstairs ...	{ 8th „ „ ...	26th „ „
	„ J. H. Bernard ...	{ 2nd September „ ...	9th November „
	„ R. Carstairs ...	{ 27th April „ ...	1st September „
	„ J. H. Bernard ...	{ 10th November „ ...	31st March 1895.

(c) Subdivisional Charge.

DISTRICT.	Subdivision.	Name of Officer.	PERIOD OF CHARGE—	
			From	To
1	2	3	4	5
MONGHYR	Begusarai ...	Mr. H. Wheeler ...	1st April 1894	13th August 1894.
		Babu Radha Kant Banerjee ...	4th November "	31st March 1896.
	Jamui ...	" Chandi Churn Chatterjee ...	16th August "	3rd November 1894.
		" Siti Kant Ghose ...	1st April "	26th April "
		" Syam Lal Gupta ...	27th " "	20th November "
BHAGALPUR	Banka ...	Maulvi Gowhar Ali ...	21st November "	31st March 1895.
		Mr. S. C. Roberts ...	1st April "	31st " "
	Madhipura	Babu Girendra Nath Chatterjee ...	1st " "	7th May 1894.
		" Dena Nath Mookerjee ...	8th May "	21st July "
		" Bhupati Chuckerbutty ...	22nd July "	18th August "
PURNA	Supaul ...	" Suresh Chunder Chatterjee ...	14th August "	31st March 1895.
	Kishanganj {	" Ram Narain Banerjee ...	1st April "	30th " "
		" Debi Prosad ...	1st " "	16th May 1894.
	Araria ...	" Saroda Prosad Sarkar ...	17th May "	31st March 1895.
	Deoghur ...	Mr. H. H. Heard ...	1st April "	31st " "
SONTHAL PARGANAS.	Godda ...	" F. C. Piffard ...	1st " "	31st " "
	Jamtara ...	" H. W. Stark ...	1st " "	31st " "
	Pakour ...	" E. McL. Smith ...	1st " "	31st " "
	Rajmahal {	" A. McGavin ...	1st " "	26th August 1894.
		" J. E. F. Pereira ...	17th October "	31st March 1895.
			26th August "	16th October 1894.

It will be seen that, except as regards Monghyr, the Division has been exceptionally unfortunate in the non-continuity of the *personnel* of its district administration. The changes may be debited in equal proportions to the exigencies of leave and of transfer on public grounds. Except in the case of Bhagalpur, I cannot say that the district administrations concerned were seriously affected.

In the cases of the Jamui and Madhipura subdivisions, the administration was certainly weakened by the two and three changes (respectively) of Subdivisional Officers. The administration of the other subdivisions was fairly continuous. This is a matter of special importance in the Sonthal Parganas, where there was only one change.

II.—TOURS AND INSPECTION OF OFFICES.

(a) Tour of Commissioner.

4. The fact of this being my first tour in this Division, and of my seeing all the districts (except Purnea) for the first time, invested it with unusual interest. In July I visited Monghyr, where I stayed from the 8th to the 22nd idem. In the following month I went to Malda and inspected the subdivision of Rajmahal *en route*. I remained at head-quarters all September, disposing of appeals and other accumulations of office work. In October I inspected the subdivisional offices of Jamui (in the Monghyr district) and of Deoghur, Jamtara, and Pakour in the Sonthal Parganas. During this tour I paid return visits to the Maharaja of Gidhour and to Raja Ram Narain Sing Bahadur of Khaira. I paid a flying visit to Madhupur (*en route* from Deoghur to Jamtara) to see the abandoned military rest-camp, with regard to the settlement of which some questions are still pending. There I met Mr. W. M. Smith, late Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur, and from him I gained much valuable information regarding the Sonthal Parganas, in which he spent the best part of his service before retiring on pension. While at Deoghur I took the opportunity of visiting the Rohini ward and of inspecting the office of the managers of that and of two other estates in the subdivision.

I found here a large and daily-increasing Bengali colony, who look upon the place as a sanitarium. The Rohini ward's estate owns most of the land in and around the town, and is reaping a rich harvest from the great demand for building sites. A large area of land has been marked out for such sites, and all

have been taken up. As a fitting memento of Mr. Carstairs' many years' work in the Sonthal Parganas this embryo suburb of the town has been called after him.

At Jamui I found the criminal administration strained to the verge of a complete breakdown, and had to recommend an immediate change of Subdivisional Officers. The rural municipality of that place appeared to me not to fulfil, in many essential particulars, the requirements of the amended Municipal Act; and Government has since, at the request of the Municipal Commissioners, consented to abolish it. I found that the sub-jail had been several times much overcrowded and had lately been visited by a severe outbreak of cholera. Two of the wards were occupied by the Deputy Superintendent's office and by the Subdivisional Officer's tents; while a third (a large one) was used as a store-room, which was only half full. I had the subdivisional tents removed at once, and reported the matter of the other two wards to the Inspector-General of Jails.

At Pakour I discussed with Mr. E. McLaren Smith his proposals for a settlement with the paharias, and settled the lines on which a further report was to be submitted to Government. I also had an interview there with the Raja of Pakour.

The whole of the country I travelled through during this tour was covered with a magnificent rice crop which would, but for the untimely rain which fell in the latter end of October and in the beginning of November, have quite beaten the record.

On the 8th November I left Bhagalpur and marched, *via* Banka, Bausi and Godda, to Nya Dumka. I took this opportunity of making enquiries regarding the prospects of the proposed railway from Bhagalpur to Bausi, for which Sir William Hudson has obtained a concession from the District Board. I arrived at Dumka on the 20th November, and remained there until the 3rd December, when I left it and marched to Rampur Hât. On my way back thence to head-quarters, I inspected the Sahibganj and Colgong Municipalities, &c., and arrived at Bhagalpur on the 10th December. After staying there two days for the disposal of appeals and office work, I started on tour again on the 12th December, and visited the subdivisions of Begusarai, Supaul, and Madhipura on the north of the Ganges. On the day (14th December) on which I travelled to Bhaptiahi from Garhara, I found the 3rd class carriages of the Bengal North-Western Railway very badly overcrowded, and saw several passengers left behind as they could not be squeezed in any how. The roads I drove over in North Bhagalpur as well as those in the south of the same district reflect great credit on Mr. Robinson, the District Engineer, and his staff. During this tour I paid return visits to the Maharaja of Sonbursa and to Babu Ganpat Singh of Harawat, and met many of the influential zamindars of this part of the Division. On my way back to Bhagalpur I visited Bariarpur and Kharakpur in the Monghyr, and Sultanganj in the Bhagalpur, district, and arrived at head-quarters on the 2nd January 1895. On the 7th idem I left Bhagalpur for Purnea, where I met, at the annual volunteer camp, all the European residents of that district. Before leaving the Purnea district, I inspected the subdivisions of Araria and Kishanganj and the ward's office, buildings, &c., at Khagra. My tour extended over a total period of 120 days. The greater part of it was spent in acquiring general information regarding the Division, which was almost entirely new to me. All pending matters of importance were discussed on the spot with the District and Subdivisional Officers concerned, and, where possible, finally settled. I paid special attention to the subject of the realisation of criminal fines and the maintenance of the prescribed forms and registers. All Government and *quasi*-Government offices and institutions and all the municipalities in the Division were visited and inspected. A good general idea of the condition, wants and work of the Division was gained which has since proved to be of the greatest assistance to me. All the district and subdivisional offices were inspected in such detail that the labour of future inspections will be materially lightened.

(b) *Tours of Collectors.*

5. Mr. Phillips' tour embraced a period of 114 days (or 24 days more than the prescribed minimum), and his diaries form a most interesting record of all matters which came under his notice. Nothing, indeed, seems to have escaped his vigilant eye and

ceaseless energy. There was not a single month during which Mr. Phillips was not away from his head-quarters, though the bulk of his tour was, as usual, done during the cold season. I give below an extract from his report, in which he details the principal matters which engaged his attention:—

“He inspected roads, ferries, pounds, police-stations, outposts, sub-registry offices, dispensaries, outstills, ganja, opium and tari shops, schools, subdivisional offices and sub-treasuries; attended chaukidari parades; enquired into the prospects of the crops and conditions of the people; visited several khas mahals and examined the accounts and talked to the raiyats; received visits from the zamindars in the interior, and heard their complaints. He enquired if there were any land disputes likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and took any necessary action; made enquiries about opening new dispensaries and schools, and made himself acquainted on the spot with several schemes and proposals before the District Board; enquired where new pounds were necessary, and what ferries should be taken up. He also inspected many Local Board roads and wells, and enquired regarding salt manufacture and opium cultivation.”

6. Messrs. Maguire and Skrine between them were on tour for 117 out of the prescribed tale of 120 days. No explanation
Bhagalpur. has been given by the latter of his failure to make up the wanting three days, but it was probably due to his desire to dispose of all pending work before proceeding to Calcutta on transfer. Between the end of May and the 9th November Mr. Maguire visited and inspected all the three subdivisions. He was on tour for 45 days in all, and his work during that period does not call for any special notice. Mr. Skrine went into camp on the 26th November, and returned finally to head-quarters on the 6th March, his actual tour thus comprising a period of 72 days. Twenty-nine days out of this period were spent at Ghoga, Colgong, and Sultanganj (stations on the East Indian Railway), and only 20 days at the head-quarters of the three important and somewhat inaccessible subdivisions of Banka, Madhipura, and Supaul. The following extracts from his diaries indicate the nature of his tour:—

Colgong—December 13th, 1894.—“A day of turmoil. An immense concourse of people to witness the distribution of prizes to the boys of M. C. G. school, which is much improved in point of numbers since I had the ‘rival show’ closed. Afterwards races and athletic sports, greatly appreciated, especially the fact that a local man tried with a wrestling champion from Bhojpur; then illumination and fireworks, and the evening closed with a theatrical performance These *tamashas* are matters of policy with me, for nothing tends to make people more contented than innocent amusements. When will Government recognise this craving”?

Colgong—December 14th, 1894.—“Every one in Colgong was so thoroughly exhausted by the excitement yesterday that I thought it hardly fair to hold inspection.”

Banka—January 29th, 1895.—“In the afternoon my wife distributed the prizes to the pupils of the middle English school in a large *shamyana* on the village green; afterwards held a darbar, which was attended by all the principal *raises* of the south of the district—a very grand affair. Speeches were made on local topics, and after *attar* and *pan* every one went away greatly pleased. About 10,000 spectators assembled unused to such pomp. The darbar was well managed by a local committee.”

There is perhaps a good deal to be said in favour of Mr. Skrine’s views as to the benefits of pomp, ceremony, and amusements; but I fear they are somewhat incongruous in these work-a-day times.

7. The three officers who held charge of this district during the year were on tour between them for a total period of
Purnea. 120 days, viz., Mr. Faulder for 80, Mr. Konstam for 14, and Mr. Maguire for 76, days. These tours comprised the usual inspections of subdivisions, thanas, &c., and also included visits to Nipal territory in connection with the question of the encroachments of the Kosi river. They do not call for any special remark. The prescribed length of the Collector’s tour in this district was increased during the year from 90 to 120 days (*vide* Government order No. 3792, dated 19th November 1894).

8. The Collector's tour in this district comprised a period of 92 days, in all of which 26 days were done by Mr. U. C. Batavyal and 66 by Mr. J. C. Price, who succeeded him on his transfer to Bogra. I give the latter's account of the tour in his own words:—

Malda.

"Between the 29th April and the 5th December 1894, Mr. Batavyal spent 26 days in the interior. In April he was out for one day, visiting Guziapara on the south-western border of the district in thana Kaliachak on the banks of the Ganges, as that locality had been the scene of a serious case of rioting attended with robbery committed by the people of the Pakour Raja. In July he was in camp for 10 days in the south and east of the district, visiting many important places on the banks of the Mahananda and Tangon rivers, and inspecting the outpost of Bamangala and the police-station at Gomasthapur. In this tour he also paid a visit to Debipur in thana Kaliachak, where a dacoity attended with murder had been committed. In his next trip, which began on the 1st November and lasted till the 12th idem, he at first proceeded up the river Kalindri as far as Kamalpur, a village in the extreme west of the district; and he next passed down the Ganges along the western and south-western frontier of the district to Turtipur, inspecting the tract on the left bank of the river as he moved along. Here he made special enquiry regarding the state of the Government khas mahal Amanut Sarkar Polashgachi, which was being cut away by the Ganges. From Turtipur he came back by way of Baroghoria, Nawabganj, and Muchia to head-quarters. In course of this tour he inspected police-stations and rural sub-registration offices, visited the important khas mahals, and also made a thorough inspection of the Bench Magistrates' office at Nawabganj. In December he was out only for two days, and merely inspected roads.

"I made the regular cold-weather tour, which began on the 19th December and ended on 31st March. In my first trip, which commenced on the 19th December, I visited the country on the western border of the district in the jurisdiction of thanas Rotna and Manickchak, and looked into the working of the Rajmahal ferry, and also paid a flying visit to the khas tahsil office at Panchanandpur. In January I made an extensive tour through the south and south-eastern parts of the districts comprising the thanas Kaliachak, Nawabganj, Gomasthapur, and Shibganj. In the beginning of February I visited Gazole, and proceeded as far as Deotola on the eastern border of the district. Then I went across country to Rotna, and after visiting Hyatpur, an important trading mart on the north-western corner of the district on the banks of the Kalindri, I returned to head-quarters *via* Mathurapur. In March I made a tour through the Barind tract on the south and south-eastern and eastern portions of the district. During these tours I inspected police-stations, excise shops, ferries, and cattle-pounds. I thoroughly inspected most of the district roads and looked into the working of the chaukidari system, and also made constant enquiries regarding the state of crops and the condition of people. Income-tax assessments were also occasionally tested by me. I spent 66 days in all in camp. Thus the joint tours of Mr. Batavyal and myself throughout the year extended over 92 days, being two days in excess of the minimum prescribed for this district. I may in fact say that all the miscellaneous details of district administration received attention from us. The tour diaries were also regularly submitted to you from time to time."

Mr. Price deserves the greatest credit for the energetic manner in which, at the sacrifice of personal convenience, he has made himself so quickly acquainted with every corner of his district and with all the details of its administration. His diaries are full of interesting and useful information.

9. Mr. Bernard, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, gives the following account of the combined tour of this district, which exceeded the prescribed period by 24 days:—

Southal Parganas.

"Mr. Carstairs made a tour of 36 days, travelling 469 miles by rail and tramway and 94 by road; Mr. Roe of 28 days, travelling 479 miles by rail and 183 by road. I was out for 80 days and made a journey of 452 miles by rail and 418 by road. Thus the total number of days the three District Officers were on tour was 144, and they travelled on an aggregate 1,400 miles by rail and tramway and 695 miles by road.

"The tours were spread over almost the whole of the year. They were made with a view to inspect all outlying subdivisional offices and other public institutions at the head-quarters of each subdivision. The Court of Wards' estates in the Sadar and Deoghur subdivisions were visited and the managers' offices inspected. I made an extensive tour through the Damin, inspected the municipalities of Deoghur and Sahibganj, all the outlying subdivisional offices, and some thanas."

All three officers deserve commendation for the extent of, and also for the nature of, the work done during their respective tours. They made themselves thoroughly accessible to the people and did a large amount of good work which does not appear in returns and statistics. The survival of the patriarchal system of Government in this district—in which personal character and influence are of so much importance—render touring in it exceptionally interesting, useful, and instructive.

(c) *Tours of Subdivisional Officers.*

10. The following table shows the number of days spent by the different Subdivisional Officers on tour:—

DISTRICT.	Subdivision.	Name of Officer.	Time spent on tour.
1	2	3	4
MONGHYR...	Begusarai ...	Mr. H. Wheeler ...	97 days
		Babu Radha Kant Banerjee ...	16 "
	Jamui ...	" Sita Kant Ghose ...	12 "
		" Syam Lal Gupta ...	78 "
BHAGALPUR	Banks ...	Maulvi Gowhar Ail ...	155 "
	Madhipura...	Mr. S. C. Roberts ...	18 "
		Babu Girendra Nath Chatterjee ...	76 "
		" Dena Nath Mookerjee ...	102 "
PUERNA ...	Supaul ...	" Bhupati Chuckerbutty ...	119 "
	Kishanganj ...	" Suresh Chunder Chatterjee ...	93 "
	Araria ...	" Debi Prasad ...	167 "
	Deoghur ...	" Saroda Prasad Sarkar ...	120 "
SONTHAL PARGANAS.	Godda ...	Mr. H. H. Heard ...	123 "
	Jamtara ...	" F. E. Piffard ...	114 "
	Pakour ...	" A. W. Stark ...	138 "
	Rajmahal ...	" E. McL. Smith ...	3 "
		" A. McGavin ...	
		" J. E. F. Pereira ...	
			Total 141 "
			Total 113 days.
			Total 90 "
			Total 94 "

It will be seen that all the Subdivisional Officers have been on tour for the prescribed period of 90 days, and most of them for a good deal more. Mr. Wheeler, the Subdivisional Officer of Begusarai, devoted special attention to the working of the Village Chaukidari Act and to primary education. The tours of his *locum tenens*, Babu Radha Kant Banerjee, were chiefly taken up with enquiries into the damage done by the high floods of August last and the necessity of giving loans to the raiyats of those tracts which suffered most from them. In Madhipura the Subdivisional Officer, Babu Bhupati Chuckerbutty, specially enquired into the causes of non-realisation of criminal fines, realised arrear subscriptions due to local hospitals and dispensaries, made sanitary and other arrangements for the annual fair at Singheswar, and gave much attention to the prompt payment of chaukidars and the administration of the Village Chaukidari Act.

Babu S. C. Chatterjee in the Supaul subdivision gave special attention to Government estates, income-tax, Nipal frontier boundary disputes and the realisation of agricultural loans outstanding since the scarcity of 1892. Both the Subdivisional Officers of the Purnea district made useful tours, as they did last year, but there is nothing in the Collector's account of them deserving of special

mention. The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas gives the following account of the tours made by his Subdivisional Officers:—

“Mr. Roe was out for 106 days and travelled 565 miles by rail and 571 by road. While on tour he inspected roads, bunds, forests, and Dahin bungalows. He inspected almost all mutation centres, and devoted a greater portion of his time to excise matters, being himself the officer in charge of the Excise Department.

“Mr. Heard, the Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur, was on tour for 167 days. He was unable to go out during the first four months of the year on account of a riding accident, which confined him in the house for 19 weeks. He visited nearly all parts of the subdivision, inspected schools, pounds, excise shops, roads and other matters of public interest, he tried some bad livelihood cases on the spot, and verified reports about outstanding fines, inspected works of improvements in Court of Wards' estates, and conducted elections of headmen.

“Mr. Piffard was on tour for 120 days. His tour extended over nine months of the year. He inspected roads and other works of public interest, making estimates of new works and enquiries in land dispute cases. He did mutation work also.

“The Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Stark, made a tour of 123 days. During this time he inspected roads and villages, marked out better lines for roads, and looked to sanitary improvements. He made local enquiries in several bad livelihood cases, and paid special attention to the working of the village chaukidars, sardar chaukidars and ghatwals.

“Mr. Smith was out on tour for 114 days. He visited nearly the whole of the subdivision. During the cold weather he made enquiries about the state of crops and the condition of the people. He inspected roads and lands in Government estates, made enquiries about the cultivation of lands by foreigners in the Damin and in many other matters of detail, explained excise matters to the people, and enquired about bad characters and registration of vital statistics.

“Mr. McGavin was out for 138 days and Mr. Pereira for 3 days, the total number of days spent by them on tour being 141. This tour was devoted to making miscellaneous, local and judicial enquiries, to the inspection of bunds, roads and other work of public utility, enquiring about crops, the revision of chaukidari beats in the Damin, and attending to all legitimate representations of the people.”

The favourable remarks made on the tour of the Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, apply equally to the tours of the Subdivisional Officers, who all did excellent work, made themselves accessible to the people and thoroughly acquainted with the condition, wants, and general affairs of their subdivisions.

The tours of all officers were rendered unusually pleasant and cheerful by the abundant harvests which the whole of the Division enjoyed during the year under report.

(d) *Inspection of District Offices and Treasuries by—*

(1) *Commissioner.*

11. I inspected all the district offices during the year. Those of Monghyr, Purnea, Malda, and the Sonthal Parganas were very thoroughly and minutely examined in all departments. The Bhagalpur offices, which I had similarly inspected in detail during the previous year, were more cursorily examined, but the Road Cess Revaluation Office was thoroughly overhauled. All the district treasuries were inspected by me, except those of Malda and Monghyr, the inspection of which had not fallen due at the time of my visits to those districts. I found the district offices generally in good order, but those of Monghyr and Bhagalpur suffer much from the overcrowding of clerks; and the establishments there, specially in the English Department, are not capable of coping with the work they have to do. A new treasury building now under construction at Monghyr will considerably relieve the demand for space there. At Bhagalpur it was proposed to move some of the offices into the old jail

buildings, part of which is now occupied as his office by the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle. The scheme fell through, as the buildings are required for the accommodation of a Police Training School. Financial pressure alone has prevented my persistently pressing the need for more accommodation on the attention of Government. In several of the offices inspected I found a lamentable disregard of neatness and cleanliness. Black and greasy punkah frills were conspicuous in many offices, and in Purnea I found that the sweeper had used the underpart of the court platforms (or *ijlas*) as a receptacle for the daily sweepings of the floors. The number of microbes and disease germs hatched by this process must have been considerable, and it must have had a prejudicial effect on the health of the officers concerned. The treasuries which I inspected were all found to be in good order, though the want of accommodation above referred to presses severely on the Treasury and Tauzi Departments of the Bhagalpur Collectorate, and renders the introduction of the rules in the new Tauzi Manual a matter of considerable difficulty.

(2) *Collectors.*

12. All the Collectors in the Division inspected their own offices and treasuries twice during the year. Mr. Skrine, the Collector of Bhagalpur, in spite of the adverse remarks made in paragraph 14 of my last year's report, made his inspection chiefly by proxy. As his inspection report he forwarded a long string of questions from the Board's Inspection Manual with the replies thereto of his subordinates and his comments thereon. This was done in direct contravention of the Board's orders (Board's circular No. 2 of February 1895), which are to the following effect:—

“Such reports need not contain all the minute details of each inspection, but should give the general results in such manner as to indicate the condition of the office or department inspected, and to place prominently before the Commissioner any matters on which any action or orders on his part appear to be called for, or which he should be informed of.”

As I pointed out in last year's report, it is an obvious waste of time and stationery to copy out the questions *in extenso*, and an equally unprofitable task for me to wade through them and extract their essence.

(e) (1) and (2).

13. The subdivisional offices and treasuries were all inspected once by me (except the Rajmahal sub-treasury) and twice by the District Officers. As a rule they were found to be in good order, and the inspection reports contain nothing of special importance.

As one result of my inspection of the Supaul and Madhipura subdivisional offices, I may note that the thana of Bangaon has since been taken away from the former and added to the latter, in order to equalise the work of the two subdivisions (*vide* Government notification No. 2825J., dated 20th May 1895). I think a general tribute of praise is due to all the Subdivisional Officers of this Division, and especially to Mr. E. McLaren Smith of Pakour, for the very excellent state of their offices and for their general grasp of the executive administration in spite of the (sometimes very heavy) judicial work which always has to be done, and from which District Officers are generally free.

III.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

14. The main features of the year's weather were the scarcity of rainfall at the beginning of the rains and their unusual prolongation into the month of November, which did some damage to the standing winter rice crops. Heavy floods in the months of July and August caused a considerable loss of *bhadoi* and early rice crops in the Monghyr and Malda districts, but this was compensated by the good *rabi* crop which followed. In the former district a sum of Rs. 16,387 was distributed under the Agriculturists' Loans Act chiefly to the tenants on Government dearahs, but in the latter no remedial measures were considered necessary. A marked feature of the year's rainfall was the absence of rain during the period, December to March. As the rainy season was prolonged well into November, a considerable amount of moisture remained

in the soil, and the *rabi* crops did not suffer as they would otherwise have done from the failure of the usual winter rains. On the whole the *distribution* of the rainfall was favourable to agricultural operations.

15. The following table shows at a glance the rainfall of each district during the year (compared with the average of the previous ten years) and the outturn of its principal crops:—

DISTRICT.	RAINFALL.		OUTTURN OF CROPS, TAKING 16 ANNAS AS THE AVERAGE OUTTURN.			REMARKS.
	Average of 10 years.	In 1894-95.	Bhadai.	Winter rice	Rabi.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monghyr ...	46.40	53.97	10½	16	12½	The figures in column 2 are taken from the Bengal Administration Reports. Those in column 3 are from the District Annual Administration Reports. Those in columns 4 to 6 are taken from the Director of Land Records and Agriculture's final reports.
Bhagalpur ...	51.67	49.09	15½	17½	15½	
Purnea ...	71.06	73.84	16	16½	18	
Malda ...	54.18	60.42	12½	16	16	
Sonthal Paraganas	57.09	64.92	18	17	13	
Divisional average	56.08	60.44	18½	16	14	

IV.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

16. The general health of the Division showed a marked deterioration during the year under report, as will appear from the detailed accounts of each district given below.

General.

The large increase in the death-rate is partly due to the excessive rainfall and to floods in some tracts, but generally to the unusual prolongation of the rains into the month of November. It may also be partly due, as claimed by some of the District Officers, to improved registration.

17. The year under report was a most unhealthy one. The total number of deaths registered was 94,816 against 55,498 in the preceding year. The mortality during the

Monghyr.

months of April, May, and June was more than double that of the corresponding months of the year 1893. The lowest monthly mortality was in February and the highest in October. The thana which showed the highest mortality was Jamalpur, where the death-rate was 63.53 per mille of the population, and that which showed the lowest mortality was Chakai, where it was 34.53 per mille. Cholera prevailed in the district throughout the year, except in the month of January. The total number of deaths from this disease was 9,166, which is the highest on record since the year 1887. Small-pox also raged throughout the year. The total mortality from small-pox (1,030) was also the highest recorded ever since the year 1878. The disease, however, which caused the greatest devastation was fever, from which 73,835 persons died during the year. The unhealthiness is attributed by the Civil Surgeon to the want of proper drainage and to the contamination of the water of the wells, from which the majority of people draw their drinking water, by sub-soil accumulation of the filth of ages.

18. The number of deaths registered during the year 1894 in this district was 83,418 against 58,145 in the year 1893, giving a death-rate of 41.63 per mille against 28.6 in the

Bhagalpur.

preceding year. The number of deaths caused by fever was 67,156. Cholera raged in an almost epidemic form and prevailed throughout the year with more or less severity: 7,594 persons died of it during the year against only 990 in the preceding year. There were only 430 cases of small-pox against 1,135 in the year 1893.

The Civil Surgeon is of opinion that the increase in the number of deaths is due to more accurate registration and not to any abnormal unhealthiness, but the District Magistrate does not endorse this view.

19. The general health of the district of Purnea during the year under report was not as good as it was in the previous year. This is accounted for by the unusual lateness of the rains. Though the rainfall was less than in the preceding year, more rain fell in September and October than in the earlier months. Fever of a malarial type prevailed all the year round, and it raged most severely during the months from September to January. The Collector reports that the lateness of the rains, together with the unusual cold, caused a great increase in mortality amongst children from fever and its complications. The total number of deaths registered in this district during the year 1894 was 64,337, of which 58,682 were due to fevers, 3,482 to cholera, 55 to small-pox, 83 to dysentery and diarrhoea, and 2,035 to all other cases.

20. The general health of this district is reported to have been somewhat better than in the year 1893. The total number of deaths registered was 32,056 against 32,947 in the preceding year, giving a death-rate of 39·3 per mille of population as compared with 40·4. Of the total number of deaths registered, 27,685 were caused by fever, 2,692 by cholera, and the rest by other diseases. There was no death from small-pox during the year under report.

21. The number of deaths registered during the year 1894 in the district of the Sonthal Parganas was 45,061 against 30,360 in the year 1893, giving a death-rate of 25·68 per mille of population against 17·30 in the preceding year. The increase is said by the Deputy Commissioner to be due to better reporting, for no part of the district was specially unhealthy during the year under report. Some of the Subdivisional Officers in this district devoted their particular attention to the subject of registration of births and deaths, and the Deputy Commissioner is taking action to secure an improvement in this direction in other parts of the district where there is most room for it. There were some cases of small-pox and cholera in the Godda subdivision, but not of an epidemic nature; otherwise the health of the district was generally good.

In connection with the subject of public health the Deputy Commissioner states that the scheme which Mr. McGavin, the Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal, took in hand last year with a view to improve the drainage of the Rajmahal marshes, has been considerably forwarded, and that it is hoped that if this improvement can be effected (which will depend upon the provision of funds), it will greatly reduce malarial fever, which is very prevalent in the town of Rajmahal.

VACCINATION.

22. Compulsory vaccination was in force in all the municipal areas within this district. Vaccination was carried on in both rural and urban areas under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon, except in the town of Jamalpur (East Indian Railway), where the Railway Medical Officer supervised them. The operations were somewhat retarded on account of the general unhealthiness of the district. The Civil Surgeon reports that there was no actual demand for vaccination, and that very few persons ask for their children to be vaccinated unless pressed by the vaccinators to do so. However, there was no positive opposition to their operations. The total number of vaccinations in this district during the year 1894-95 was 52,109 against 54,733 in the preceding year. The number of successful vaccinations was 51,115 against 54,451.

23. The number of primary vaccinations performed in this district during the year 1894-95 was 56,414 against 60,268 in the preceding year. The number of revaccinations was 196 against 139; 56,072 cases of vaccination and 119 cases of revaccination were successful. The Collector reports that 430 cases of small-pox occurred during the year against 1,135 in the year 1893. The subdivisions of Supaul and Madhipura are said to have been entirely free from this disease,

while the Sadar subdivision reported 283 cases, of which Colgong and Sultan-ganj registered 195 and 64 cases, respectively. In the Banka subdivision 56 cases occurred in thana Amarpur.

24. The number of primary vaccinations during the year 1894-95 was 62,880 against 59,864 in the preceding year, and of revaccinations 127 against 31; 99·56 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and 61·35 of the revaccinations were successful.

25. Vaccination was carried on in this district both by licensed vaccinators and by paid agency. The total number of operations performed during the year was 31,181 against 27,826 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 3,355 cases; 31,019 were successful, 160 unsuccessful, and the result of two is unknown. The rate of successful primary vaccinations was 99·81 per cent. against 99·7 in the preceding year.

26. The number of persons vaccinated during the year in the Sonthal Parganas was 61,935 against 57,803 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 4,127 persons. Strenuous efforts were made to make the people of the Godda subdivision understand the advantage of vaccination, and the result appears to have been very successful. The Marwari residents of Jantara and Sahibganj were at first opposed to their children being vaccinated, but subsequently consented. In one part of Deoghur Mr. Heard, the Subdivisional Officer, had himself vaccinated publicly, and the example is said to have had a very good effect. Vaccination is becoming more popular every day in the Sonthal Parganas, and inoculation is now almost unknown. The appointment of Sonthals and other residents as vaccinators in the Pakour subdivision has had the effect of breaking down the prejudices of the people, and children are now freely presented for vaccination. Dr. Kelly, the Civil Medical Officer, is said to have taken special interest in this work as he did last year.

V.—MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

27. Taking the Division as a whole, the condition of the people was, owing to good harvests, fairly prosperous in spite of the continued tendency towards a rise in, or perhaps I should say equalisation of, prices due to improved communications. The following remarks made by the Collector of Monghyr as regards his district are to the point and of general application:—

“On the whole the material condition of the people during the year under report did not materially change.

“Trade has been brisk, and it was a profitable year to the trading community.

“The cultivating classes in the tracts not subjected to inundation were better off owing to the rise in the prices of food-grains. The condition of the labouring class was deleteriously affected by the rise in the price of food-grains, when there was little or no corresponding rise in their scale of remuneration.

“The middle classes are helped by the fact that they nearly all have some land under cultivation when they do not indulge in unnecessary luxuries.

“The condition of the man who has received a sufficient smattering of education to make him despise the trade of his forefathers, while not enough to make him succeed at the Bar or in Government employment, is unsatisfactory.

“The landholding classes are largely indebted, and their expenses have increased more than their incomes. A large proportion of them are in the hands of mahajans, from whose clutches they find it difficult to extricate themselves.

“That a desire for better food, better clothing, and better mode of living has sprung up in the minds of all classes of people, admits of no doubt whatever. Gold and silver ornaments are more common, and brass utensils have usurped the places of earthen pots. Shoes, umbrellas, and better dresses are now more extensively used than before, and articles of food which were formerly considered as luxuries are now in common use. With the opening of railroads and other communications and owing to the activity in trade, the expenditure of all classes of people is increasing.”

The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas writes:—

“There has been a distinct improvement in the condition of the people owing to the plentiful harvests at all seasons of the year. The surplus population of the district, and those who have no cultivation of their own, find employment on railways, stone quarries, and buildings. Some emigrate to tea gardens, and others enroll themselves to serve Government as coolies in the Lushai Hills. The Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal reports that the deficient outturn of the Indian-corn and bajra crops among the paharia population of his subdivision was amply compensated by the profit they made from the cultivation of sabai grass, the unrestricted sale of which was referred to in last year's report. Its cultivation is rapidly spreading, and it is apprehended that this may tend to denude the hills of the few trees they still contain. Measures will be taken to check such devastation. It has been arranged that the paharias shall not hypothecate more than one year's crop, and this has saved them from the extortionate demands of the mahajans who had hitherto been extorting agreements from them for periods ranging from five to seven years on very inadequate and unfair terms. Again, the order forbidding mahajans and other outsiders to go into the hills and cut sabai grass has furnished employment to hundreds of people resident in the hills.

In Purnea there are large tracts of uncultivated land used chiefly for grazing, which relieve the pressure of the people on the soil and tend to improve the material condition of the people. The ravages of the river Kosi, however, render a good deal of such land uncultivable.

VI.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

28. The number of emigrants registered during the year 1894-95 under the Inland Emigration Act was 165 against 195 in the preceding year. Fifty-one of these were males, 45 females, and 69 dependants. The Magistrate states that the decrease in the number of emigrants registered is due to an increased resort to free emigration. The number of emigrants registered under the Colonial Emigration Act was 31 against 53 in the preceding year. Twenty of these were males, seven females, and four dependants. There was no recruitment through the agency of female recruiters. One criminal case was brought against a recruiter working under the free emigration system in this district. After detaining two boys at his house for one night on promise of finding them work at Baidyanath, the recruiter attempted to take them to Assam, when he was detected by the Railway Police at Jamalpur. He was tried under section 342 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months and to a fine of Rs. 50.

29. There was no emigration from the district of Bhagalpur during the year under report. The Collector writes that the pressure of population in this district is not so great as in the western districts of Bihar, and that waste lands are still available for cultivation. This is also the case in Purnea. This accounts for the absence of any tendency on the part of the labouring classes to emigrate. The case in which two girls were enticed away by certain recruiters from the Banka subdivision during the preceding year was brought to a close during the year under report. Three persons implicated in the case were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two and-a-half years each under sections 363 and 417 of the Indian Penal Code. There was no immigration on a large scale into this district, but cultivators from western districts occasionally come and take up land and then gradually settle down on it. Some tailors and blacksmiths from Monghyr recently settled at Banka.

30. There is no regular emigration from, or immigration into, the district of Purnea. The supply of labour in this district is rather less than the demand, and casual labourers come from other districts for work. Large numbers of labourers pass through this district in search of work further east.

31. As in the previous year there was very little emigration from this district during last year. The labouring classes in this district have no inducement for going out of it, as they find sufficient employment in their own fields and in the numerous

silk filatures. On the contrary, thousands of upcountry people come into this district in the cold season for employment in harvesting and in road-making and repairing, returning home when their temporary work is at an end. As in Purnea, large gangs of coolies from the North-Western Provinces pass through this district in October and November on their way to Eastern Bengal, returning in the spring. The Sonthal colonies in this district are reported to be adding to their number every year.

32. Of the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham's system of emigration to Assam, the Deputy Commissioner writes:—"The scheme devised by my predecessor, Mr. R. Carstairs, in consultation with the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham for providing a safe means of emigration to Assam, has been in force during the year under review. Only some of the tea gardens have adopted it. Their agent in Dumka is Mr. W. F. Adlam, who, as far as integrity and zeal goes, is all that could be desired."

The number of emigrants registered by recruiters was only 30, of whom 8 were males, 13 females, and 9 dependants. The free emigration system, however, worked briskly. It has been ascertained that as many as 592 coolies were recruited from the Deoghur subdivision alone under this system, 112 from Jamtara, and 22 from Rajmahal. Yet this cannot be said to represent the actual number taken, as accurate information on this point cannot be obtained. No statistics are available for the other subdivisions.

Recruitment through *arkatis* has abated, but it has not altogether disappeared. Garden sardars from Assam, the Duars and other tea districts come with the necessary certificates and take away coolies unnoticed. This has occurred both at the Sadar and in the subdivisions, and the local officers have not as yet been able to put a stop to the practice. When the keepers of unlicensed depôts at Dumka were called upon to explain why the garden sardars whose certificates were received by the Deputy Commissioner did not present themselves before him nor register any coolies, their reply was that the sardars found that they could not get any coolies and had left the district in consequence. The Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, writes:—

"It is reported by the Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur that complaints about persons being enticed away were many, but only three cases and three persons were sent up for trial, one under section 363 and two under 341, Indian Penal Code. In the case under the first section the accused was discharged, but in the last two conviction was obtained." I quote below Mr. Heard's remarks about abuses in connection with emigration:—

"I am strongly convinced that many abuses in connection with the so-called free emigration system go on, and that of the cases that actually occur few only come to light, and fewer still end in conviction. I have expressed before in various letters to your office my view that to a certain extent the law itself seems to blame for the abuses that prevail."

He thinks that there is no remedy for a man whose wife is abducted and sent away secretly to a tea garden. The only section applicable is section 417, Indian Penal Code, "cheating," but it is not easy to work it practically. The following case is quoted by him as an instance in point:—"A Dome complained to him that a woman of his own caste, whose brother is a cooly sardar, came to him and asked him to let his wife go to the assistance of a Sonthal woman in labour in an adjoining village. It was promised that the wife should return that evening. The man agreed and went off to his work. There was no wife at home when he got back, and proceeding at once to the Sonthal's house he learnt that the Sonthalin was not even *enciente*. The Domni is still missing, and the husband is left with an unweaned infant on his hands. The wife is probably over 16, so section 361 will not apply, and section 417 will most probably not do, not because sections 24 and 25 are not satisfied, but because there are seldom any reliable witnesses to the plausible pretext by which a recruiter's victims are decoyed from the home roof."

There were fewer cases of abduction of coolies than in 1893-94. The details of those which were of a heinous nature have been fully given in the quarterly returns of criminal cases connected with emigration, and it does not appear necessary to reproduce them here. The most important case may, however, be mentioned. One Mr. Crow was charged by Chewku Manjhi with

having enticed away his daughter, under 16 years of age, from Dumka. The girl was traced to Assam and brought back thence. A charge of kidnapping under section 363, Indian Penal Code, was proved against Mr. Crow, and he was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 350, or in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a term of two months. The sentence appears to be inadequate; but as the accused has since died, no action can be taken to enhance it.

After their own harvest is gathered many Sonthals with their families are in the habit of temporarily emigrating to Malda, Dinajpur, and to the tea districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling in search of employment. Some acquire lands in these places and settle there, but the majority return home again. This movement was less marked during the year under report owing to the good harvest enjoyed by the Sonthals.

The Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Bernard, reports that the enlistment of coolies for Chittagong is still popular, and that they are collected for this work without any difficulty. Since the close of the year Mr. W. F. Adlam, the agent for the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham, has been permitted by the Deputy Commissioner, as an experimental measure, to manage the business of collecting and despatching coolies to Chittagong free of charge. If he does the work satisfactorily the Deputy Commissioner proposes to ask the Commissioner of Chittagong to correspond with him direct.

There is no immigration into this district except for work in connection with the East Indian Railway.

38. In connection with the subject of emigration I attach a copy of an advertisement which appeared in the *Englishman* of 25th April 1895, and which hardly requires any comment—

"Wanted—A partner to advance Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 for the cooly trade, i.e., to supply coolies to tea gardens through their agents in Calcutta; a very very profitable business; guaranteed cent. per cent. profit. For further particulars apply in first instance to 'Investor,' care of this paper."

34. The inspection of depôts under the Inland Emigration Act during the year has not been so frequent or searching as it ought to have been, and the attention of the District Officers concerned has been specially drawn by Government to the defect.

VII.—PRICES OF FOOD AND LABOUR.

35. Taking the Division as a whole, the prices of wheat and salt remained

Prices. nearly the same as in the preceding year. In the district of Monghyr wheat, common rice, and salt fell, while grain slightly rose, in price. Prices were somewhat higher in the Janui subdivision than in the other subdivisions. The failure of the bhadoi crops in the *deara* tracts tended to increase prices there for a short time, but the excellent outturn of the winter rice crop brought them to their level. There was a fall in the price of common rice throughout the district of Bhagalpur due to the excellence of the winter rice crop which was above the average. Prices were not generally affected by export and import, but were almost entirely determined by the local harvests. In Purnea common rice sold at 16 seers a rupee at the beginning of the year, and after a rise in July and August and a fall in October and again in December, it continued to sell at 20 seers a rupee until the close of the year. There was some fluctuation in the price of wheat, but the prices of other food-grains continued favourable throughout the year.

Owing to a good harvest and to decreased exports the price of common rice in the district of Malda was a little easier than in the preceding year, but the price of wheat rose from 16 seers in 1893-94 to 12 seers 4 chitaks in the year under report. Large exportation, combined with a deficient outturn, caused the price of this staple to rule higher.

The principal food staples of the district of the Sonthal Parganas are rice and Indian-corn. Owing to the favourable outturn the price of common rice was low. Indian-corn, on which the Sonthals mainly live, was plentiful, and they were consequently well fed and prosperous. Wheat and gram are not staple articles of food in this district, and they are not much grown there.

36. Wages of labour remained almost stationary. There is, if anything, a slight tendency towards a rise, but no marked changes took place during the year under report. The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas writes that in and near towns

masons and carpenters are in greater request than before, and that this fact has tended to increase their wages. As I remarked last year, wages do not appear to fluctuate with or to rise so rapidly as prices.

VIII.—MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

37. The principal manufactures of the district of Monghyr continued to be opium, molasses, saltpetre, indigo, and guns. It appears that 81,774 bighas of land were cultivated with poppy against 81,086 bighas in the preceding year. The outturn of opium was 2,587 maunds against 1,927 maunds in the year 1893-94. Thus there was an increase both in the area under cultivation and in outturn, but it is stated that the outturn was an average one, and it compares favourably with the previous year only because the latter year was unusually bad for poppy. Molasses manufactured in this district is exported to Calcutta and other places. Saltpetre is manufactured chiefly in the Begusarai subdivision, where there are many manufactories and refineries. Guns are largely manufactured and exported to Lower Bengal. The demand for Monghyr-made guns is very large owing to their cheapness. During the year under report 3,661 guns and pistols were manufactured against 3,799 in the previous year. The indigo season was a favourable one, and as prices were fair, most of the concerns made good profits. The statistics which have been received from four factories show that the total outturn in them was 4,888 maunds. In the preceding year the outturn in seven factories was only 3,705 maunds. Ghi and hides are also extensively manufactured and cured in this district and exported to Calcutta and other places. Among minor articles of manufacture may be mentioned ebony boxes, walking sticks, brackets, chairs, cane baskets and fancy articles made of straw, which find a ready sale in the district, all over Bihar, and in a part of the North-Western Provinces.

38. The principal articles of manufacture of this district are *tassar* silk, indigo and molasses. During the year under report Rs. 1,78,270 worth of *tassar* silk cloth was exported from this district against Rs. 2,18,719 in the preceding year. The falling off in the export was due to the rise in the price of cocoons. There were 19 indigo factories at work in this district during the year under report, and the outturn was 1,834 maunds, valued at Rs. 3,41,888, against 1,172 maunds, valued at Rs. 3,02,560, in the year before. The cultivation of sugarcane and manufacture of sugar and molasses are steadily extending in the Supaul and Banka subdivisions.

39. The principal manufactures of this district are indigo, country cloth, blankets, brassware, wood-work, gunny-bags, mats, molasses, and *bidri* work. The season was favourable to the growth of indigo, and the outturn was satisfactory. The prices obtained were also favourable. Country cloth and blanket are manufactured chiefly to supply local want. Some of the former is also exported to Nipal. The brassware, *bidri* work, and gunny-bag industries are on the decline. The wood-work consists chiefly of the making of cart wheels, which, owing to their durability, are in great demand and are sold in the district as well as in the surrounding districts. The mat industry, which is carried on chiefly near Kishanganj, has received an impetus by the opening of the Kishanganj railway line. Molasses are also manufactured chiefly in the Kishanganj subdivision and to a smaller extent in the Araria subdivision. The introduction of cane-pressing mills has given an impetus to this industry. A large quantity of the molasses is exported to Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Nipal.

40. The principal manufactures of the district of Malda are silk (including the various kinds of silk fabrics), indigo and brass and bell-metal-ware. There were two silk factories under European management and numerous native silk filatures at work. The two European factories produced 41,810lbs. of silk of the estimated value of Rs. 3,46,410 against 67,920lbs. of the estimated value of Rs. 6,67,187 in the previous year. The estimated value of the silk produced in the native filatures was Rs. 11,50,000 against Rs. 14,00,000. The indigo cultivation in this district proved more successful than in the preceding year. The outturn

was 1,395 against 1,132 maunds. The manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils continued to be the same as in the previous year. There was no improvement or decline.

41. Indigo and country cloth were the chief manufactures of this district.

Sonthal Parganas.

There were 15 factories, three of which did not work during the year. The outturn of indigo in the remaining 12 factories was 436 maunds against 264 maunds in the year before. Country cloth, which is preferred by the poorer people as being thicker and stronger than imported cloths, is manufactured for use in the district.

42. The only districts in this Division where there are mines or quarries

Mines.

are Monghyr and the Sonthal Parganas. Two mica quarries were worked in the Jamui subdivision of the former district, and the output was 86 maunds against 260 maunds in the preceding year. The stone quarried at Dharahra continued to be worked by Mr. Ambler.

There are four coal mines in the Sonthal Parganas, of which the most important is that at Madankata. The output from this mine during the year 1894 was 40,227 tons of coal against 23,660 tons in the preceding year. Owing to the coal-strike in England last year the price of coal ran high, and this Company made the best of the opportunity. It is reported, however, that the mine is nearly exhausted. The other coal mines call for no remarks; they yielded altogether only 738 tons of coal. There are several stone quarries in this district near the East Indian Railway. The stone is used for railway ballast and for the roads of the Municipality of Calcutta and of the District Boards of Hooghly and Burdwan. A clay pit was also leased out by Government in the Rajmahal subdivision for three years at an annual rental of Rs. 370.

IX.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

43. The trade routes of the districts of this Division, with the exception of Purnea, were the same as before. The description given by the Collector of Purnea of the trade routes of his district is quoted *in extenso*. He writes:—

“No great change is observable in the principal trade routes of the district. The opening of the Barsoi-Kishanganj Railway line has attracted a good deal of the traffic of Kishanganj subdivision, but the boat route by the Mahanadi river is still followed as being the least expensive.

“The merchants of Pichlsila-Kuttigola and other places on the Mahanadi still send a good proportion of their commodities by the river route to Bhadreswar and Calcutta. The boat routes of the Kosi and Ferriani from the Araria subdivision have been entirely abandoned. In course of time there can be no doubt that the railway will engross the whole traffic of the district.

“The extension of the Barsoi-Kishanganj line to Siliguri with good feeder roads, connecting the principal trade centres with the railway stations, seems very desirable to open up that portion of the district, and it will be a source of large income to the railway. The reduced special rates for certain goods proposed in my last report have, I am glad to notice, been made, and I have no doubt that in time a large proportion of the river traffic will pass on to the railway.”

44. The import of European piece-goods showed an increase over the preceding year, which, the Collector says, was due

Monghyr.

to the better general condition of the people and to the good outturn of crops. The import of country produce also was over the average. The import of rice was larger, and that of salt was smaller than in the preceding year. The import of wheat was about the same during the past two years. These temporary variations, which might have been caused by fluctuations in prices, are not in fact capable of satisfactory explanation. Except in the cases of wheat and ghi, the export trade in the most important commodities showed a falling off as compared with the preceding year. The Collector has been unable to ascertain the reason for the decrease.

45. From the statistics of rail-borne traffic received by the Collector from

Bhagalpur.

the District Traffic Superintendent of the East Indian Railway for the six railway stations within the Sadar subdivision, it appears that the principal articles of export were rice, wheat, and oilseeds, other food-grains, and jute, and of import European

piece-goods and salt. There was a general falling off in export during the year under report as compared with the preceding year. The import trade in European piece-goods was rather dull, but that in salt showed a rise.

On this subject the Collector writes:—"The value of articles exported from and imported to Supaul from Nipal as registered in the three registering offices was Rs. 5,69,115 and Rs. 4,60,277 against Rs. 6,00,442 and Rs. 3,01,093 of the previous year. But this does not represent the correct figures, as a large quantity escapes registration by being carried through routes lying between the intermediate stations."

46. I cannot do better than quote the Collector's account of the import and export trade of his district. He writes:—

Purnea.

"The principal articles of export were jute, tobacco, rice, paddy, mustard and hides. An increase is observable in almost every article exported. Rice and paddy are taken in considerable quantities to Revelganj, Chapra, Arrah, and other places in Bihar, a portion finding its way even to Ghazipur. The goods are sent down by rail to Manihari ghat, whence they are taken by country boats to the places aforesaid. Forbesganj is the chief centre of this rice and paddy trade, the supply whereof is received to a large extent from the Nipal Terai. Mustard and hides are sent down to Calcutta and jute and tobacco to Bhadreswar and Calcutta, the two principal marts in Lower Bengal.

"Jute is daily becoming a very important article of the export trade of this district. Messrs. Ralli Brothers of Calcutta have opened a screw-house at Kasba and established sub-agencies at Forbesganj and Kishanganj. Cultivators have been growing jute to a considerable extent on account of the increased demand for this article of trade and the ready market they find for it. They also find its cultivation in some years much more profitable than paddy, but it is a speculative crop.

"The principal articles of import were European piece-goods, salt, iron, brass and copper wares, cotton, kerosine oil, sugar, and gold and silver. There was an increase in almost every article of import, except rice and paddy. The successive good harvests of the preceding years did not necessitate the bringing in of paddy, in any considerable quantity, to the district. The supply was more than the requirements of the district, and thus it was able to export a large quantity of its produce.

"The increase in European piece-goods is remarkable. The general prosperity of the people consequent on the good harvests of successive years enabled them to purchase new clothes and to celebrate a larger number of marriages. The increase in kerosine oil is also considerable; cheapness is its principal characteristic, and people are learning to use it to a considerable extent.

"A large increase is also observable in salt. It was necessary to bring in a large quantity of this article to replenish depleted stocks of the previous year. The increase in the other articles of import is not great, and does not require special mention. They are due to fluctuations in trade."

The trade with Nipal is daily growing in importance with the increased trade of the district and with increased facilities for transit. The principal articles of exports were rice, paddy, jute, mustard, and tobacco. All these articles showed an increase over the figures of the preceding year, except mustard and jute. The decrease cannot be satisfactorily accounted for. The principal articles of import were European piece-goods, salt, iron, betel-nuts, sugar, and kerosine oil. All these articles, except sugar, show an increase.

Trade with Nipal.

47. The principal articles of export from this district were the same as in the preceding year, viz., rice, wheat, oil-seeds, pulses, silk, silk-cloth, jute, indigo, metal-ware, cocoons and mangoes. The principal articles of import were European piece-goods, cotton twist, salt and kerosine oil. The export of rice which was taken to the North-West Provinces fell off from 8,00,000 in 1893-94 to 7,00,000 maunds during the year under report. The export trade in wheat, raw silk cocoons, and metal-ware was normal; that in kalai and pulses was dull, and

Malda.

the export of silk fabrics was smaller than in the preceding year. The import of European piece-goods, cotton twist, and kerosine oil increased, and that of salt was normal.

48. The Deputy Commissioner reports that trade was, as usual, very brisk in the eastern parts of his district, viz., in the Sonthal Parganas. Rajmahal and Pakour subdivisions, where the lines of communication were the East Indian Railway and the river Ganges. In the Deoghur and Jamtara subdivisions trade was less brisk, but was more active than in the Sadar and Godda subdivisions. The principal articles of export were grain, pulses, oil-seeds, sugar, unrefined, tobacco, lac, tassar cocoons, stone metal, hides, buffalo horns, and sabai grass. Mohua was also exported from this district, but accurate statistics are not available. Those of import were European piece-goods, kerosine oil, *pices, salt, gunny-bags, and brass-ware. The export of sabai grass was considerable. The grass was despatched to the Bally, Titagar, and other paper mills. The export of lac was not large. The trade in hides and bones expanded. The import trade increased generally during the year. The number of cattle registered in the Hiranpur cattle market was 27,814 against 33,722 in the year 1893-94. No satisfactory explanation is available of the large falling off in this trade.

The District Officers have not been able to make much use in their present reports of the statistics furnished by the Railway authorities and the Government under orders passed in Statistical Department circular No. 2, dated the 16th April 1895, on the subject of statistics of river and rail-borne traffic. Long after the submission of their Annual General Administration Reports the District Officers of Monghyr, Bhagalpur, and Malda, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, forwarded to this office, without comments, the statements of "up" and "down" import and export boat traffic carried along the Nadia rivers; and the District Officer of Monghyr alone submitted the statement of boat traffic along the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. Only the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas and the Collector of Bhagalpur have submitted figures of rail-borne traffic. It is hoped that all the statements ordered by Government will be received by the District Officers in time for incorporation in their reports for the current year, and that they will be fully reviewed by them in their next reports. Figures for two years will then be available for comparison. Their special attention will be called to this important subject early next year and before their next reports become due.

X.—ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES.

49. The most important administrative change made during the year was the formation of a separate Arrear Collection Department in each district under Government Order No. 1648L.R., dated the 22nd March 1894. It is yet too early to give final opinion on the results of this scheme, as it was in operation only for a part of the year. So far as I have been able to judge, however, it has been of considerable advantage.

A revised scale of apprentices for mufassal offices, i.e., 20 per cent. on the number of permanent employes in the whole office (instead of 10 as before), was sanctioned by Government in their No. 5959M.A., dated the 15th November last.

Two outposts, one at Harda and the other at Assuragarh, in the Purnea district, and the outpost of Bholahat in the Malda district, were abolished; and the outposts at Manikchak and Tulsihatta in Malda were converted into thanas.

The Sadar Munsif of Malda was vested with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge for trial of suits up to the value of Rs. 100.

The following Acts of the Governor-General in Council were extended during the year to the Sonthal Parganas, viz.—

Act V of 1881, Probate and Administration.
Act I of 1894, Land Acquisition.

A Bench of Honorary Magistrates was established for the first time at Deoghur in the Sonthal Parganas. Messrs. W. M. Smith and W. C. Müller, both retired Deputy Magistrates, were invested with powers to try cases

(sitting alone) at Madhupur and Barkope, respectively. The latter has since resigned and left the country.

The Sultanganj Bench was made independent during the year under report.

XI.—STATISTICAL ENQUIRIES.

50. Both births and deaths were registered by the police throughout the Division. In the non-police tracts of the Sonthal Parganas they were recorded by the parganites with the help of other indigenous agencies. The accuracy of these statistics is doubtful and is questioned in many quarters, but the subject is now receiving increased attention from all officers concerned, and yearly improvement in this direction is visible. Much depends on the interest taken in the matter by the superior officers of police. The Magistrate of Monghyr writes:—"Births' and 'deaths' have been registered by the police during the year. The rural chaukidars take the information under these heads through the *punches* to the thana on parade days, where they are registered. The local police and outpost officers check this information. 'Death' registration is fairly well carried out in this district, and has been so ever since 1885, when Colonel Ramsay, District Superintendent of Police, took up the subject and more than doubled the registered death-rate of the previous year.

"Birth' registration in rural circles, on the other hand, has only been in operation for three years, and there is no doubt that the figures are much below the truth. The figures for the three years are as follows:—

1892—Birth ...	71,357—35·04 per 1,000.
1893— Do. ...	74,654—36·66 " "
1894— Do. ...	75,479—37·07 " "

"During the year under review five circles show an increased birth-rate as compared with the preceding year and nine a decrease.

"Sikandra and Chakai, which were formerly two of the most backward thanas in the district, show a large increase—

Sikandra from 3,516 births (30·72) to 4,100 (35·82).
Chakai from 3,709 (31·66) to 4,373 (37·32).

"But for the large increase in these two thanas the district as a whole would have shown a decreased instead of an increased birth-rate for 1894."

The Magistrate of Malda writes:—"The system is still defective. I always inspect the death and birth registers when in the interior, and am sorry to have to admit that the entries do not appear to be reliable. I have directed the police officers to warn the chaukidars to report births and deaths regularly. Any marked delinquency in this respect is punished judicially, sometimes with imprisonment."

Statistics were also collected during the year regarding crops, industries, prices-current, and rainfall. The Collector of Purnea writes that statistics of trade were also collected by a Deputy Collector at the Sadar and by a Sub-Deputy Collector at Kishanganj. In Malda enquiries regarding the export and import trade were made by the police.

51. Statistics of traffic with Nipal were, as in previous years, collected in the districts of Bhagalpur and Purnea by muharrirs stationed on the frontier. On this subject the Collector of Bhagalpur writes:—"The registration of traffic with Nipal continues to be made at the same places, viz., Birpur, Kanoli, and Panchparia. The Subdivisional Officer of Supaul reports that the registration at these places does not represent the exact trade with Nipal as goods pass across the boundary at intermediate points. He considers that the number of articles which escape registration must be large." The Collector of Purnea writes:—"These stations are on the most important routes through which the trade principally passes, but there are other routes of lesser importance by which it is believed a fair portion of the trade is carried on." The figures can only be regarded as approximately correct, and I do not think it would be safe to place much reliance on them.

XII.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

52. The figures for the work done by the several civil courts in this Division have, as ordered by Government, been obtained direct from the District Judges.

The Munsif's Court at Jamui worked almost throughout the year 1894, and was of much advantage to the people of that subdivision. Owing to heavy pressure of work a second Subordinate Judge was deputed to Monghyr for a portion of the year.

Several zamindars of the Supaul subdivision, headed by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, applied for a separate munsifi for that subdivision. The Judge, however, was of opinion that there was not sufficient work there for a separate Munsif, and he did not approve of the Munsif of Madhipura being removed to Supaul. The matter has been dropped for the present; its revival would involve the expensive question of new buildings.

The permanent Sadar Munsif of Malda was vested in October last with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge for trial of suits up to a value of Rs. 100.

The Collector of Malda, Mr. Price, states that great inconvenience is felt in having the District Judge at Rajshahi, which is 92 miles from Malda. For half the year parties cannot avail themselves of the steamer service for going to and coming from Rajshahi for the institution and conduct of appeals and original cases of value exceeding Rs. 1,000. He suggests the establishment of a Subordinate Judge's Court at Malda, and I think the proposal is a reasonable one.

The Officiating Collector of Monghyr, Mr. Wheeler, writes:—"The relations between creditors and debtors were far from satisfactory: all the Munsifs report unfavourably of the high rates of interest charged by money-lenders, specially by the Marwaris. The raiyats cannot do without the help of the mahajans, but once in their grasp, it becomes extremely difficult to extricate themselves." The usury law is now under discussion by the Government of India, and it would be premature to say more on the subject. I think that agricultural banks for the benefit of the raiyats might be tried in some of the districts of this Division. If these banks were started under Government patronage and guarantee, native gentlemen of position and means, especially Government officers, would be glad to keep their savings in deposit in such banks if 4 to 6 per cent. interest were allowed on such deposits according to the time allowed for the right of withdrawal.

The increase in the number of rent suits in Monghyr is attributed to the fact of the Srinagar estate instituting a large number of rent suits on its release from the control of the Court of Wards. The Collector of Bhagalpur reports that the increase of such suits in his district is due to the partition of the Srinagar estate, which resulted in the institution of rent suits on behalf of each share of the estate. The increase in the district of Malda is attributed to the institution of a large number of such cases by the Raja of Pakour.

It is reported that in the district of Monghyr the number of enhancement suits increased owing to disputes both as regards the quantity of land and the rate of rent. The claims on both sides are said in many cases to have been supported by fabricated documents.

The Munsif of Begusarai says:—"I take special care to see that only those applications for distraint are granted in which the landlords could furnish *prima facie* strong evidence of their title." This precaution, he says, has led to a visible falling off in the number of such applications.

Mr. Wheeler refers to the general complaint of the great delay in the disposal of title suits by the civil courts. I agree with him that if decrees in such cases could be obtained within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost, many disputes, which otherwise occupy the time of the criminal courts and disturb the peace of the district, would be avoided. It is, however, only fair to admit that such delays are as often as not the fault of the parties rather than of the courts.

With reference to the increase in the number of title suits in Bhagalpur from 524 in 1893 to 934 in 1894, and the decrease of money suits from 5,096 to 4,302, the Officiating Collector, Mr. Mullik, writes—"The above increase and decrease is, according to the District Judge, due to the fact that a number

of mortgage suits which had hitherto been wrongly classed as money suits have now been classed as title suits." This correction of classification would still leave a portion of the variation unexplained. The Collector thinks that "a possible explanation may be found in two years of successive prosperity."

In the district of Malda the number of title and other suits increased from 673 in 1893 to 1,583 in 1894. The Collector attributes the increase to the institution of a very large number of cases by the zamindar of Chanchal (Babu Sarat Chandra Roy Chaudhury) against the tenants of his newly-purchased estate of Shyampur. All these suits were for ejectment of tenants.

There was also an increase in this district from 3,221 to 3,374 of suits for money; and the Munsif of Malda attributes it to the ill-feeling between the landlords and tenants of thanas Malda and Gazole.

53. The special report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Sonthal Parganas was submitted with my letter No. 1130J., of the 22nd May 1894.

The total number of original suits instituted in that district during last year was 13,348 and of execution cases 7,600 as against 12,583 and 6,706, respectively, in the year 1893. The Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Bernard, with reference to the increase in title suits, writes that a majority of them was instituted with a view to have contested claims to land confirmed by the civil courts in tracts which have not been recently resettled.

The good harvest of two successive years has, it is said, induced the people to institute many money suits in the belief that they had a better chance of realising their dues.

The number of cases referred to arbitration fell from 506 to 386. The Deputy Commissioner writes that the decrease took place everywhere, except in Deoghur and Jamtara, and that arbitration is not liked by any class except the Sonthals and Paharias.

The result of the Administration of Civil Justice in the Sonthal Parganas was generally satisfactory and creditable to the officers of the staff of that district. I may add that the tendency is for work to increase without a corresponding increase of workers, and that the demand for officers for the Bihar survey was felt in this district as in the other districts of this Division.

XIII.—CRIME.

54. The total number of cases reported to and investigated by the police during the year under report was 11,526, which, compared with the figures for 1893 (10,253), gives an increase of 1,273 cases. With the exception of a slight decrease in Malda and the Sonthal Parganas the increase is about equally shared by all the districts of the Division.

Of the 10,253 cases enquired into during the year 735 were found to be false and 10,791 to be true. Five thousand eight hundred and seventy-four cases were disposed of by Magistrates, of which 4,839 ended in conviction. The number of *persons* brought to trial was 11,818, of whom 7,504 were convicted and 3,828 were acquitted. The Magistrate of Bhagalpur writes:—"An unsatisfactory feature of the year's returns is the apparent revival of dacoity. In 1893 there was only one case, but the number rose to five in 1894, and of these only one was detected and successfully prosecuted. The proximity of the Nipal frontier accounts for the successful escape of the criminals in the northern subdivision. It is always possible to check this form of crime when it is the work of local gangs, but when we have to deal with bad characters from the other side of the frontier the police at our disposal can no more prevent dacoities than they can prevent murder." There is only one Police Inspector for the two subdivisions of Madhipura and Supaul, and the area of his jurisdiction is far too large to allow of effective supervision. The matter has been specially represented to the Inspector-General of Police since the close of the year with an application for a second Inspector and a slight increase to the police force on the Nipal border.

XIV.—POLICE.

55. The conduct of the police of this Division was, on the whole, satisfactory during the year under report, and there is nothing which calls for special mention under this

Regular police.

head.

Preventive police were employed in Monghyr owing to repeated obstructions on the East Indian Railway line, and in the Sonthal Parganas owing to agrarian disputes.

56. The introduction of Act VI (B.C.), 1870, is practically complete in the districts of Purnea and Malda. In Monghyr and Bhagalpur a considerable amount of work in this

Rural police.

direction remains to be done during the current year. The Sonthal Parganas has a rural police system or systems peculiar to itself. The Magistrate of Monghyr writes:—"The rural police have worked well. One hundred and one men were rewarded, and Rs. 359 was paid as reward for good services. Two hundred men were punished. As compared with 1893, the number has fallen from 119 rewarded and 273 punished. It is probable that the greater number of punishments in 1893 had a salutary effect. The pay of the men has also been gradually raised throughout the district, which may be expected to have a good effect.

"The chaukidars' salaries were paid more regularly, and a large number of villages were brought under the Chaukidari Act during the year."

The Magistrate of Bhagalpur remarks:—"The extension of the Chaukidari Act in the district is being gradually carried out. Early in the year under report it was successfully introduced into the whole of the Sadar thana. The system has hardly had time to get into thorough working order in the new area, but in those parts in which it has been longer in force it is found to be very successful. The District Superintendent of Police considers the reporting of crime to be quite as good as in other districts in which the Act is fully in force. The attendance at parade is decidedly good, substitutes being for the most part sent when the chaukidar is unable to come.

"In consequence of the extension the number of chaukidars under Act VI has largely increased. The number in 1893 was 2,219 against 1,519 under Regulation XX of 1817, while in 1894 it rose to 2,503 against 1,200 jagirdars. It is a matter of surprise to me that the introduction of Act VI has proceeded so smoothly; for there can be no doubt that every class of the public regards it with disfavour. The villagers hate it because it means additional and, what is more direct, taxation. The zamindar hates it because it deprives him of a willing servant, and the chaukidar hates it because he loses what is dear to the heart of every cultivator—land, and because his commuted pay by itself is not nearly enough to support him. It is fortunate, however, that in the majority of cases the holder of the tenure is appointed chaukidar. The number of chaukidars judicially punished was 26, while 884 were fined departmentally. The percentage of chaukidars rewarded is only .01, an unsatisfactory feature, to remedy which efforts will be made during the current year."

The Magistrate of Purnea says:—

"Of the 4,517 rural police or chaukidars (*vide* paragraph 21), 4,443 are under Act VI of 1870 and 74 under Regulation XX of 1817. The general rate of pay is Rs. 4, though there are chaukidars in some places who get Rs. 6 or Rs. 5, and Rs. 3 in a few instances also. In spite of all measures adopted, it has been found difficult to secure men of good caste to take the office of chaukidar. In some instances the services of Sheikhs, Pathans, and Rajputs were secured by offering higher salaries. The Hari caste is the prevailing element in the rural police. They are very low in point of repute and caste, so much so that good caste people are said to tremble at the bare idea of having to use the spear of a Hari chaukidar." Mr. Meares, the District Superintendent of Police, writes:—"The working of the rural police is extremely unsatisfactory. A very large proportion of these are Haris, one of the most criminal classes in the district, and decidedly the most dangerous class owing to their extensive organisation, extending as it does throughout the centre of the district from south to north and into the Morang. The *panches* prefer employing Haris, as they are a menial class from whom they are able to get more private work than from men of other castes, and who from their low social position are more amenable than most castes to their orders in every thing."

57. Mr. J. H. Bernard, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, makes the following observations on this subject:—"The rural police in the Deoghur subdivision are underpaid. In the Jamtara subdivision a considerable

improvement in the status of chaukidars has been effected by raising their pay to Rs. 3 per mensem by taxing the villagers. In the Deoghur subdivision the subject is under consideration. Probably the ghatwals in ghatwali estates and zamindars in other estates should provide either pay or jagirs for badly paid chaukidars. In Jamtara a scheme has been devised by which the old ghat chaukidars, who have now no work to do, pay for the entertainment of sardar chaukidars. These officials are now well off and are said to be working well. The ghatwal of Ghati in the same subdivision received special commendation for prompt action in a case of dacoity which resulted in the discovery and conviction of the culprits who had not been identified by the complainant, and probably thought they had got safely away. The Subdivisional Officer of Jamtara is endeavouring to prevent the subletting by chaukidars of their jagir lands to mahajans and to get lands with which they have parted back for them. The difficulty lies in their identification. The Subdivisional Officer of Pakour has paid much attention to the organisation of indigenous police in his subdivision and reports of their work in terms of praise. They certainly do a great deal everywhere, and perhaps more in Pakour than elsewhere, where they are all personally known to Mr. Smith. I am at present attempting to improve the rural police arrangements in the Dumka subdivision. In Rajmahal police tracts Mr. McGavin, the Subdivisional Officer, has taken steps to cause chaukidars to be punctually paid."

XV.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

58. The number of cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates in 1894 was 12,009, or 9 less than in 1893, but the number of persons tried was 17,863, or 265 more than in the preceding year. Forty-seven thousand one hundred and forty-seven witnesses were examined against 51,396 in 1893, an increase of 4,249. These figures indicate that the cases disposed of during the year under report were of a more serious and difficult nature than in 1893. The slight increase (of 3·5 over 3·3) in the ratio of detention of witnesses over two days points to the same conclusion.

Of the total number of persons on trial, 63·1 per cent. was convicted and 36·5 was acquitted, as against 58·8 and 40·5 per cent. respectively in 1893.

It is satisfactory to note that the number of appeals fell from 1,443 in 1893 to 1,363 in 1894, while the ratio per cent. of decisions confirmed on appeal rose from 73·4 to 78·5 respectively. Each Stipendiary Magistrate disposed of an average number of 237·8 cases in 1894 against 225·6 in 1893.

59. The results shown in the preceding paragraph would hardly have been attained but for the help rendered to the administration by the Honorary Magistrates, who disposed of no less than 3,439 cases last year compared with 2,523 in 1893, an increase of 916. In these cases 4,039 persons were tried against 3,088 in 1893, an increase of 951. The nearer correspondence between the number of cases and the number of persons tried by the Honorary Magistrates indicates the fact that they were of a more simple nature. The percentage of persons convicted and persons acquitted in the above cases was 63·1 and 36·2 in 1894 against 56·6 and 43·4 in 1893. Five thousand eight hundred and six witnesses were examined as against 5,285 in 1893, and only 143 of the former were detained more than two days. The ratio of detention fell from 7·8 in 1893 to only 2·4 in the year under report. The percentage of decisions confirmed on appeal fell, however, from 69·7 in 1893 to 65·0 in 1894.

Each Bench disposed of an average of 129·7 cases as against 110·9 in the previous year, and the average number of witnesses examined in each case fell from 2·0 to 1·6. It will be seen therefore that the judicial work of the Benches of Honorary Magistrates is still of the easiest and most primitive description. I consider that the older and more experienced of them having now served their apprenticeship might in future be entrusted with the trial of cases of a more difficult and important nature. The relief afforded to the administration by the work of the Honorary Magistrates is considerable, but it might, I think, be increased with advantage to all concerned. Their services are certainly worthy of acknowledgment and praise.

60. There are altogether 23 Benches in this Division composed of Honorary Magistrates. Eleven each of these Benches have 2nd and 3rd class powers, and the Bhagalpur Sadar Bench has 1st class powers. The Shaikpura

Bench sits four days a week, the Jamui Bench three days: six Benches sit twice a week; ten sit once and the other five sit every fortnight. A new Bench was established at Deoghur shortly after the close of the year, and the Kishanganj Bench was made independent, to which class all the Benches in the Division now belong, except the former, which is still in leading strings. The names of the Honorary Magistrates who specially distinguished themselves by regular attendance are given below:—

<i>Monyhyr.</i>				
Mr. John Hartley	...	...	...	Jamalpur.
Rev. Lewis Thomas Terry	...	...	...	Ditto.
<i>Bhagalpur.</i>				
Munshi Sujaet Ali Khan	...	...	...	Sadar.
Babu T. Prasanno Kumar Buxy	...	...	...	Banki.
" Saligram Singh	...	...	...	Do.
" Kartic Prasad Chaudhuri	...	...	...	Madhipura.
" Rash Behari Mandal	...	...	...	Ditto.
" Shama Pado Ghose	...	...	...	Ditto.
" Baidya Nath Bose	...	...	...	Colgong.
Maulvi Syed Shah Mahomed Anwar Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
Munshi Golam Maula	...	...	...	Supaul.
Babu Sanki Lal Jha	...	...	...	Sultanganj.
Munshi Mukdoom Baksh	...	...	...	Ditto.
Maulvi Mahomed Faniq	...	...	...	Bibpur.
Babu Bhagwan Chandra Chaube	...	...	...	Do.
" Pryag Chaudhuri	...	...	...	Do.
Mr. Herschel Dear Christian	...	...	...	Bongong.
Babu Jagat Narain Singh	...	...	...	Partapganj.
" Sripati Mookherji	...	...	...	Ditto.
Munshi Haji Najibulla	...	...	...	Ditto.
<i>Purnea.</i>				
Babu Kamakhya Nath Ghose	...	...	...	Sadar.
" Gobind Chandra Banerji	...	...	...	Do.
Maulvi Mahomed Hadi	...	...	...	Do.
Mr. Vivian Ernest Weatherall	...	...	...	Do.
" Charles William Thomas	...	...	...	Do.
" Roderick Jefferson Cave	...	...	...	Do.
" Charles James Shillingford	...	...	...	Do.
Maulvi Mir Jahor Ali	...	...	...	Do.
Babu Girwardhari Lal	...	...	...	Do.
Mr. Algermond Caswell Bolt	...	...	...	Kishanganj.
<i>Malda.</i>				
Babu Thakur Das Das	...	...	...	Sadar.
" Bhagawati Charan Sen	...	...	...	Do.
Maulvi Abdul Aziz Khan	...	...	...	Do.
Babu Gopi Charan Sen	...	...	...	Do.
" Radhica Lal Satyar	...	...	...	Old Malda.
" Haris Chandra Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
" Promotho Nath Banerji	...	...	...	Nawabganj.
" Gopi Mohun Shah	...	...	...	Ditto.

61. The following Honorary Magistrates had powers to sit singly for the disposal of cases during the year:—

Rai Medni Prosad Singh Bahadur.	Mr. Charles William Thomas.
Babu Bhubaneswar Prashad.	Babu Girwardhari Lal.
Raja Ram Narain Singh Bahadur.	Mr. William George Morey.
Babu Baidya Nath Bose.	" William Muller Smith.
Dr. David Picaahy.	" William Charles Muller.
Babu Gobind Chandra Banerji.	Maulvi Syed Abdul Rahman Muzaffer.
Mr. Frederick Alexander Shillingford.	Mr. Sidney James Bazalgette.

62. The Magistrate of Bhagalpur writes:—"Taking the district as a whole, the Bench Magistrates have done very useful work. Their attendance

has been more regular, the quality of their work has been better, and they have shown a sense of responsibility which does them great credit. My predecessor, with the sanction of the Commissioner, was able to acknowledge in writing the services of several among them who had shown particular zeal. In this connection the Maharaja of Sonbursa and Sub-Registrar, Colgong, as Honorary Magistrates deserve special mention: the former attended every sitting of the Sonbursa Bench and the latter as President of the Colgong Bench and in his capacity as a Magistrate empowered to sit singly disposed of a large number of cases. During the year under report the Sultanganj Bench, was converted into an Independent Bench and the Honorary Magistrates of Colgong were empowered to take cognizance of complaints and police cases under section 191, Criminal Procedure Code.

"In contrast with this progress, I regret to state that in point of despatch and efficiency the administration of justice has not improved. The percentage of witnesses detained over two days was 3·9 against 1·4. Of A cases remanded more than six times, 3·8 as against 1·2, and of convictions in sessions cases 62·9 as against 80·7 in 1893. I am unable to supply any explanation for this apparent decline."

The Magistrate of Purnea remarks:—"The Sadar Bench, 5 of whose 16 members are empowered to sit singly, tried only 70 persons against 136 in 1893. Many of the members were absent from the district on private affairs for a great part of the year. The former system by which cases were made over to particular Magistrates, who made their own arrangements for attending, was not calculated to produce convenience to parties who had often to wait many days till the pleasure of the Honorary Magistrates was known. A Bench has now been arranged for each day in the week, as it is hoped that this plan will work better. But there is no great administrative need for Benches in this district, as there are not more cases than the Stipendiary Magistrates can try."

63. The total number of sessions cases in 1894 was 166 as compared with 131 in the previous year, and the percentage in which conviction was obtained rose from 79·6 to 81·7.

Sessions trials.

This is a very creditable result. In one case of riot in the Jamui subdivision of the Monghyr district eight persons were killed. The accused were acquitted by the Sessions Judge, and against this acquittal an appeal was preferred by Government to the High Court under section 417, Criminal Procedure Code. The appeal was not, however, successful. In the Sonthal Parganas an important change was made during the year under report in the conduct of sessions prosecutions. These were formerly prosecuted by one of the stipendiary Magistrates at Dumka, but the prosecution is now conducted under the sanction of the Legal Remembrancer by a pleader.

64. The year 1894 opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 45,054.

Criminal fines.

A sum of Rs. 85,173 was imposed during the year, making a total demand of Rs. 1,30,227. Rupees 76,227 was collected, Rs. 14,330 remitted on appeal or written off (total Rs. 90,557), leaving an outstanding balance on the 31st December 1894 of Rs. 39,670. It is satisfactory to observe that the outstanding balances were reduced during the year instead of being increased as they were in 1893, and this in spite of a larger total demand. About Rs. 8,000 more (in round figures) was remitted and written off in 1894 than in the preceding year, and this accounts chiefly for the above result.

Increased attention has been paid during the year under report to the subject of the realisation and remission of criminal fines. The power of writing off such fines as are irrecoverable has been delegated by Government to District Magistrates, and they have been asked to use it freely though with due care and caution and after local enquiry. Many of the fines imposed by the courts, especially in excise cases, are far beyond the means of the accused person, and are generally given with the object of securing a full term of imprisonment in default. If such imprisonment is suffered in the case of a low caste person or landless labourer, fined, say, Rs. 50, it is worse than useless to keep the fine outstanding and to make periodical enquiries regarding its realisation. Such a fine hanging over his head only makes such a person hopeless and drives him again to crime in sheer despair.

65. Of 3,548 A forms sent up in 1894 only 1,051 were disposed of on the first day, the figures for 1893 being 8,111 and 1,020, respectively. The ratio of cases remanded six times and more rose from 3.0 in 1893 to 4.2 in 1894. This is accounted for by the increase in the number of cases and of witnesses examined in them and by the fact that the district staff fell considerably below actual requirements during last year owing to the demand for officers for the Bihar survey. Work was carried on at one time or another at high pressure throughout the Division, and but for the Benches of Honorary Magistrates it would have been still more difficult to cope with it. As remarked in paragraph 59, the help given by them might with advantage be considerably increased.

XVI.—REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS.

66. The number of Registration Officers (29) and of Special (6) and Rural (23) Sub-Registrars in the Division remained the same as in the previous year.

The total number of documents registered in the whole Division during the year was 71,648 against 70,477 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 1,171. This increase occurred in all the districts, except Purnea, and was most striking in Bhagalpur and Monghyr. The Collector of Bhagalpur writes:—"The increase is chiefly observable in the registration of term leases, mortgages, and sales of immoveable property of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards. The cause of increase in the term leases is attributed to the abnormal increase in Banka subdivision owing to the renewal of leases and counterparts in the Lachmipur, Sabalpur, and Panjwara estates. The rise in the registration of sales is due to the effect of the Bengal Tenancy Act."

The Magistrate of Monghyr writes:—"The cause of increase is the reduction of the minimum fee from 12 annas to 8 annas. The partial failure of bhadoi crops also caused the poorer tenants and other people to sell and mortgage their lands to meet daily expenses and to pay off the arrears of rents on their lands."

Regarding the decrease in Purnea the Collector states:—"The decrease of 1,143 in the number of registrations is attributed to two causes,—*first*, a good harvest; *second*, that in the previous year a large number of term leases were registered in consequence of several settlements between landlords and tenants."

The increase in Malda and the Sonthal Parganas was small, and does not call for any particular remark. Regarding fluctuations in the different kinds of documents, however, the Deputy Commissioner writes:—"There has been a remarkable decrease both in perpetual and terminable leases. Transfers of lands by sale or lease are not recognised and usufructuary mortgages are not allowed to have full effect. In such cases the courts do not allow the mortgagees to remain in possession when it is proved that they have realised what the usury clause of Regulation III of 1872 allows. The fall in the registration of these deeds has been made up by a number of deeds of sale of *sabai* grass by the paharias in Rajmahal subdivision."

This department continued to work well and to give satisfaction to the people. Many of the Sub-Registrars are Honorary Magistrates, and as such and as Municipal Commissioners and in other ways give considerable assistance to the general administration without any detriment to their own special duties. They also give valuable advice to parties as to the proper stamp required for documents brought or about to be registered. In the smaller offices they have considerable leisure which might, I think, be often usefully employed by District Officers in various miscellaneous executive duties and enquiries. They are as a rule trusted and liked by the people.

XVII.—CONDITION OF THE DIVISION AS REGARDS LAND AND THE LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

[NOTE.—Where the figures under this head XVII differ from those in the Annual Land Revenue Report submitted to the Board of Revenue, the difference is due to the inclusion of the figures for the Sonthal Parganas, which are not included in the latter.]

67. The number of estates borne on the five revenue rolls of the Division was increased during the year by 155 (net), i.e., from 14,639 to 14,794. Ten estates in Monghyr were redeemed by payment of the capitalised value of the Government

revenue; five in Bhagalpur were purchased by Government at revenue sales in the absence of other bids, and two (one in each of the above districts) were removed from the revenue rolls as untraceable.

68. The current demand from the above estates decreased from Rs. 33,77,505 in 1893-94 to Rs. 33,75,022 in the year under report. The net decrease of Rs. 2,483 occurs chiefly in estates in class II, and is mainly due to diluvion of land and dispossession from a fishery. The demand from estates in class I is almost exactly the same as in the previous year. There was a slight compensating increase in estates in class III due to resettlements and to settlements of alluvial accretions.

69. The current collections were Rs. 33,04,963 during the year as against Rs. 32,83,230 in 1893-94, giving a net increase of Rs. 21,733 and an increased percentage of 97·9 compared with 97·2. The arrear collections amounted to Rs. 87,895 out of an arrear demand of Rs. 98,606—a percentage of 89·05 against 93·7 in the previous year; 97·6 per cent. of the current and arrear demands together was collected, the remissions amounting to about ·2, leaving a balance of only 2·2 per cent. distributed over estates as follows:—

			Rs.
Class	I	...	24,307
"	II	...	5,716
"	III	...	47,340
Total			77,363

70. Out of 14,500 revenue-paying estates in the Division, 1,767 fell into arrear for a sum of Rs. 72,416: 212 were put up to sale, but only 103 were actually sold, the rest being exempted by the Collectors under section 18, Act XI of 1859, on payment of all the Government arrears of whatever nature due from them. It cannot, I think, be said that these figures show any severity or harshness in the administration of the revenue sale laws. I should rather be inclined to say that they indicate such a leniency in the application of section 18 as to make landlords somewhat lax and careless in the matter of punctual payments, and to favour the idea that sale day may be looked upon as a second or subsidiary kist day. It is, I think, much to be regretted that the discretion given by section 18, Act XI of 1859, was not taken away as proposed in the Bill prepared by Mr. Beames, which was withdrawn at the last session of the Bengal Council. Standing as it does, it produces irregularities and variations of procedure every time a new Collector comes to a district, to the great bewilderment of the people.

71. Eighty-two estates were under settlement during the year, of which 56 were pending from 1893-94, and 26 were new institutions: 21 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 61 for disposal. With the exception of taurir Barhia in Monghyr and the settlements under Mr. Craven in the Sonthal Parganas, all of these were of a petty nature. In Monghyr work was hampered by the want of a qualified Deputy Collector, and in the Supaul subdivision of North Bhagalpur by the want of a Sub-Deputy Collector. In the Sonthal Parganas Mr. Craven was able, before his transfer to Singhbhum, to complete the bulk of the settlement work he had in hand, and it will be finished by the Deputy Commissioner with the help of a Sub-Deputy Collector (Maulvi Ekram Hossein), who was one of Mr. Craven's Assistant Settlement Officers. With the exception of parganas Teor, Ambar, and Sultanabad, the records of which remain open for a year under section 25, Regulation III of 1872, all the other settlement work which Mr. Craven had in hand has been closed.

In connection with the recent settlements in the Pakour subdivision the Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, quotes the following from the report of Mr. McL. Smith:—"There has been great excitement and dissatisfaction among the Sonthals with the result of the settlement. They say they have been ruined by the settlement taking away their rights."

Mr. Bernard adds:—"Lately on Mr. Smith's representation and on petitions filed by village headmen, I had under consideration the grievances complained of. Many of them seemed to be groundless. The action of the Settlement Department was based on previous custom and on principles carefully considered and sanctioned by my predecessor, Mr. Carstairs. There were some omissions and mistakes, to rectify which steps are being taken. On the whole, I suspect the excitement is overestimated by Mr. Smith, who is apt to see things from the raiyat's point of view alone. No doubt the people object to pay more rent, but they have been found to possess more land than they pay for, and they cannot reasonably expect such a state of things to last for ever."

72. The total number of certificates for disposal during the year (including those pending at the close of 1893-94) was 12,974, and they covered a demand of Rs. 2,94,378.

Certificate Act.

Of this sum Rs. 1,29,371 was realised by means of 8,545 certificates, and 1,116 were cancelled, leaving at the close of the year under report 3,313 certificates pending for the realisation of Rs. 1,44,581. Out of the Rs. 1,29,371 realised during the year, Rs. 65,085 was realised on issue of notice under section 10, Rs. 53,773 on the issue of sale notification, and only Rs. 10,513 by actual sale or arrest. The certificate work shows a considerable increase over that of the previous year in all departments, except Road Cess. In spite of this, actual sales were fewer, and only two persons were sent to jail. From what I have seen of the working of the Certificate Procedure during my inspections and in the exercise of my appellate and revisional powers under the Act, I consider that it has not generally pressed hardly on debtors. The great blot on it appeared to me to be the perfunctory and careless, if nothing worse, manner in which notices and sale proclamations are served by the Collectorate peons. Little or no trouble is, I fear, taken to see that personal service is the rule and not the exception. The usual return of the peon is "stuck up on the house in presence of the village chaukidar." The most common ground of appeal to my Court was that the debtor had had no intimation whatever either of the filing of the certificate or of the proclamation of sale, owing to the carelessness or collusion of the peons concerned. I issued instructions to the Collectors to insist on personal service as far as possible, and when it was not possible, for a full explanation of the reason why it was not.

In several certificate cases which came before me in appeal from the district of Monghyr from time to time, I was struck by the frequent occurrence of the name of Balaki Lal as respondent. On enquiry I found, as reported last year, that he was the head of a sort of syndicate at Monghyr which made a profit by buying landed property at certificate sales and restoring it to the judgment-debtors for a premium or reselling it at a profit. Section 19 of the new Act I (B.C.) of 1895 will, I hope, effectually put a stop to such transactions, while section 31 will, I think, effect a great improvement in the service of notices under section 10. The revision by sections 15 to 17 of the above Act of the sections relating to appeal to the Civil Court gives still further protection to judgment-debtors and softens to a considerable degree the summary nature of the procedure. A special word of praise is due to Mr. Jarbo, the Certificate Officer of Monghyr, for the excellent and methodical way in which he performed his certificate work during the year under report.

73. There were 37 new cases during the year, and these, with 140 remaining over from last year, gave a total of 177 cases for disposal. Of these, no less than 142 cases

Land acquisition.

were in the Purnea district and related to the acquisition of lands for the Assam-Bihar State Railway. In the other districts the cases were chiefly for land for railway sidings and other purposes and for pounds and inspection bungalows for the District Boards. Most of them were of a petty nature. Twenty-seven cases were disposed of and 150 left pending.

74. Of the 190 cases on the file for disposal during the year, 115 were pending from last year, and 75 were new institutions. Fifty-eight cases were disposed of during,

Partitions.

and 132 left pending at the close of, 1894-95. Eighty-three of these cases belong to the district of Monghyr, where there is a Special Deputy Collector, 35 to Bhagalpur, 13 to Purnea, and one to Malda. Except in Monghyr and Malda, disposals did not keep pace with institutions. The procedure of

the Partition Act is very tedious and cumbrous; and where, as in this Division, one or more sharers object at every stage before the Deputy Collector, Collector, and Commissioner, with a total disregard of the principle of give and take, speedy disposal of work becomes impossible in spite of the exertions of the officers concerned. However fair and equitable the general arrangement may be, it seems to be a point of honour to object to it, and mean-spirited to do otherwise. I cannot but think that some plan of village arbitration would greatly accelerate the disposal of partition work and lead to greater satisfaction to the various sharers.

75. The total number of cases for disposal was 3,874, of which 1,013 belonged to previous years and 2,861 were new institutions. No fewer than 2,167 of the above total belonged to the district of Monghyr. The disposals numbered 2,921 (Monghyr 1,568), and the year closed with a balance of 953 cases. Only 25 cases were pending over six months. These results are creditable to District Officers.

76. The number of transfers on which fees were paid under sections 12-13 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was 1,119. Of Rs. 1,327 paid as fees, about half was accepted and half rejected. The relations between landlords and tenants during the year are reported to have been generally satisfactory. The passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act has, however, effected a change in the nature of those relations which becomes more and more perceptible every year. The old feudal or personal feeling of mutual trust and dependence is gradually giving way to a feeling of independence and estrangement, and disputes are settled in the Civil Court instead of in the zamindar's cutcherry or at the Collector's or Subdivisional Officer's camp.

77. The total demand of current and arrear Road and Public Works cesses at the commencement of the year was Rs. 9,29,413. The collections (including advance payments) amounted to Rs. 8,45,410, and the net balance, after deducting remissions, was Rs. 1,04,168, or a percentage of 11·2 on the gross demand. Revaluations by Special Deputy Collectors of the districts of Monghyr and Bhagalpur were in progress during the year. So far as they have gone, they show good financial results.

78. Curiously enough, the number of money-orders issued and the amount covered by them on account of Government land revenue and cesses in the years 1892-93 to 1894-95 are almost the same, viz.—

Year.	Number of money-orders.	Amount.
1	2	3
1892-93 ...	9,008	Rs. 1,11,963
1893-94 ...	9,074	1,10,204
1894-95 ...	9,863	1,11,373

The above figures, which do not include those of the Sonthal Parganas, where the system of payment of rent by money-orders is not in force, certainly do not indicate a very hopeful progress, and it is difficult to account for the apathy of the people in not availing themselves more fully year by year of the advantages of the money-order system. It is probably due to the backwardness of education and to the inherent conservatism of the people.

The figures for money-orders remitting rents to landlords are not complete, but so far as they are available they agree with those given above in showing no more than a nominal progress. The system seems to have flourished more in Purnea than in any other district of the Division. The number of orders issued in that district and the amounts covered by them are larger than in all

the other districts put together, and the proportion of refusals also is much less. This is, I think, accounted for by the greater independence of the Purnea raiyats, and by the peculiar terms on which some of them hold their lands. It may also be due, in some measure, to the peculiar unhealthiness of the climate and to the long distances of many of the villages from the nearest zamindari cutcherry.

79. Only Rs. 300 was advanced under Act XIX during the year, and this was given in the district of Bhagalpur. Including the above sum, the amount outstanding in the Division was Rs. 5,849, including Rs. 469 interest: Rs. 2,035 was collected, and there remained a balance of Rs. 3,814, the greater part of which did not fall due within the year under report.

Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts (XIX of 1883 and XII of 1884.)

Under Act XII of 1884 Rs. 16,387 was advanced in the district of Monghyr to those raiyats who suffered a total loss of their bhadoi crops by the excessive floods of last August. There were large outstandings in Bhagalpur (Rs. 16,383) and Purnea (Rs. 7,074), and the total divisional demand, including interest, came to Rs. 45,945. Of this, Rs. 22,330 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 23,615. The Bhagalpur balance was reduced from Rs. 16,383 to Rs. 4,224, and that in Purnea from Rs. 7,074 to Rs. 2,689. The outstandings in the former district are due from raiyats in the Supaul subdivision, which suffered somewhat severely from scarcity in 1892.

80. The following information is furnished regarding the amounts expended in Government estates on account of miscellaneous and sanitary improvements, including agriculture, in accordance with the instructions contained in Government letter No. 3505, dated 19th October 1894:—

Monghyr.—A sum of Rs. 270 was spent in repairing the tahsil offices. No other work of improvement was done. The Government estates in this district are chiefly deara lands, which are flooded every year, and it is not worth while to spend money on works which cannot be protected. A sum of Rs. 64 was spent on conservancy arrangements for keeping clean the bazar at Lakhiserai. No attempt at clearance of jungle was necessary, as all the Government lands in this district are free from it.

Bhagalpur.—Out of Rs. 1,000 sanctioned for miscellaneous improvements, Rs. 212 was spent in repairing the existing village *cutcherries* in the Sadar and Supaul subdivisions, and the balance in building a new *cutcherry* at Tintunga, which, however, has not yet been completed. Articles of furniture have also been supplied to the village *cutcherries*. The patwaries have been supplied with guard-books in which to paste the parwanas which they receive, and with order-books to enable the inspecting officers to record their instructions on the spot. An agricultural show was held in the Government estate Tintunga, opposite Colgong railway station, on the left bank of the Ganges in February last. The Officiating Collector writes that at this show though good bullocks, sheep, goats, horses, and buffaloes were not wanting, not a single good cow was exhibited, the reason being that while the bullocks are, at considerable expense to the cultivators, fed with fodder at home, the cows are turned out to get what scanty grazing they can. The allotment of Rs. 600 for agricultural improvements was spent in repairing existing embankments in Pealapur and Muktapur in the Sadar subdivision and in Rajanpur in the Supaul subdivision. The grant of Rs. 500 for sanitary improvements was utilised in sinking two pukka wells—one in Tintunga and the other in Jagatpur, and in repairing an old well in the latter estate.

Purnea.—Under the head of Miscellaneous Improvements a sum of Rs. 5 only was spent in clearing jungle in Baghmara.

Mulda.—The sum of Rs. 250 allotted to this district for miscellaneous improvements and Rs. 700 for sanitary improvements was spent as follows:—

Sanitary improvements.—For reclamation of the Andhua tank in English Bazar Rs. 500; for reclamation of two tanks in the circuit-house compound Rs. 200.

Miscellaneous improvements.—For cleaning jungle in khas mahal English Bazar Rs. 50; for repairing cutcherry bungalows at Shergar and Jhowbana, including balance of charges incurred in the construction of the record-room at Shergar, Rs. 185.

Sonthal Parganas.—The following works of improvement were executed in the Government estates in this district:—

(1) For repairs to Tiliachak *bandh*, Rs. 300; (2) for repairs to the *bandh* at Maharu, Rs. 150; (3) for constructing and improving some of the Damin bungalows, Rs. 270; (4) purchase of furniture for the above bungalow, Rs. 70; (5) for construction of a shed for registration of cattle at Hiranpur, Rs. 200; (6) for repairing Damin roads, Rs. 208-8; (7) for purchasing galvanised corrugated iron culverts for use in Damin, Rs. 471-8; (8) for improving two *bandhs* in Damin, Rs. 100; (9) erecting a *bandh* at Panchgarh, Rs. 100.

The following works were constructed from funds given by the Messrs. Grant:—(10) Sinking a well at Borio, Rs. 276-8; (11) excavating a tank at Patua, Rs. 176-4; (12) erecting a *bandh* at Simuljuri, Rs. 200.

Nothing was done in the way of introducing new staples, and no agricultural improvement was introduced in the Division throughout the year under report, nor were any improved implements or machinery tried.

XVIII.—ATTACHED ESTATES, INCLUDING COURT OF WARDS.

81. The estates named in the margin were under the management of the Court of Wards at the commencement of the year

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Sukraj Rai. | 4. Rohini. |
| 2. Lugma. | 5. Punasi. |
| 3. Khagra. | 6. Narainpur. |
| 7. Sankara. | |

under report, and no new estate was taken charge of, nor was any estate released. The financial result of the year's management was the collection of Rs. 4,06,280 out of a demand of Rs. 6,04,990; Rs. 27,985 was remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,70,076. The percentage of collections was only 67·15, which cannot be regarded as satisfactory, considering that managers have the certificate procedure at their backs. After paying Rs. 1,84,697 to Government and superior landlords the estates had a net balance of Rs. 2,21,583 to their credit; Rs. 11,907 was spent in paying off debt, Rs. 49,452 on the cost of management, Rs. 88,011 on the maintenance and other expenses of the proprietors, Rs. 13,347 on improvements, and Rs. 58,832 on miscellaneous items, leaving a surplus of Rs. 1,41,981. The only one of the above estates which is still heavily involved in debt is the Lugma estate in Bhagalpur. A new loan of Rs. 25,000 at 6 per cent. was taken in 1893-94 to pay off an old debt carrying a high rate of interest.

During the year under report a sum of Rs. 7,000 besides interest was paid towards the liquidation of the above loan.

82. The following works of improvement were carried out in wards' estates during the year under report:—

The Lugma estate spent Rs. 250 on repairing roads.

The Sukraj Rai's estate spent Rs. 386 on sinking a well for the benefit of the raiyats. Steps have been taken to increase the future expenditure under this head.

In the Khagra estate 60 bighas of jungle in and around ward's residence were cleared at a cost of Rs. 1,490 for the double purposes of sanitation and agriculture.

In the Sonthal Parganas the Rohini estate spent Rs. 2,249 on the construction of roads and culverts and in repairing *bandhs*.

The Sankara estate in the same district expended Rs. 4,284 on the construction of bridges and on the excavation of a tank in a village where there was a deficient supply of drinking water.

83. The condition of the tenantry in the various wards' estates was on the whole good, though some slight and partial failure of crops occurred in the Lugma and Sukraj Rai's estates.

There were no attached estates during the year in any of the districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea, Monghyr, or Malda. The Nagore estate, which was attached under Regulation XIX of 1814, remained in charge of the Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, as before.

XIX.—EXCISE.

84. The total excise revenue of the Division amounted to Rs. 14,02,744 as against Rs. 13,36,456 and Rs. 12,17,837 in the two previous years. The chief items which make up this total are country spirit Rs. 6,17,877, tari Rs. 1,16,678, ganja and bhang Rs. 4,50,568, opium Rs. 1,53,114, pashwai (in the Sonthal Parganas) Rs. 39,540—total Rs. 13,77,777.

The large increase of Rs. 66,288, or about 5 per cent., is due mainly to the settlement of shops at higher prices. The increase was spread over all the districts of the Division. Mr. Wheeler, the Officiating Collector of Monghyr, adds that the increase in opium revenue was "due to the falling off in illicit consumption." The Officiating Collector of Purnea, Mr. Temple, attributes the increase in his district from Rs. 2,86,162 to Rs. 3,21,742 "to the improved condition of the people." The Collector of Malda, Mr. Price, writes that the increase of tari revenue in his district "was due to the increase of the Sonthal population in the district," and "owing to the increasing Sonthal immigration he expects a further development of revenue under this head. There was, however, a falling off in the revenue from ganja and opium in this district (Malda) consequent upon the failure of the bhadoi and kalai crops in the deara tracts.

In Monghyr there was a large decrease in the revenue from ganja, which the Collector says was partly due to the falling off in the exports to the North-Western Provinces, and partly to a diminished consumption in the tracts affected by the high floods of August last.

The incidence of the divisional excise revenue was annas 2-7 per head of population against annas 2-3, the figure for the whole province in 1893-94. The highest incidence (annas 3-5) was in Malda and the lowest (annas 1-7) in the Sonthal Parganas.

The details are shown below :—

		Revenue from all sources.	Incidence per head of population.
		Rs.	As. P.
Monghyr	...	3,66,908	2 10
Bhagalpur	...	3,54,417	2 9
Purnea	...	3,23,702	2 7
Malda	...	1,76,399	3 5
Sonthal Parganas	...	1,81,318	1 7
		14,02,744	2 7

The total number of shops in the Division was raised from 3,044 to 3,197, the increase being in the number of tari and pachwai shops.

The Officiating Collector of Bhagalpur, Mr. B. K. Mullick, writes:—"The withdrawal of the restrictions on vat capacities was much appreciated by the abkars. It is desirable that the restrictions on *still* capacity be also withdrawn." No doubt the withdrawal of all restrictions would be hailed with joy by the abkars, but I am certainly opposed to the withdrawal of the restrictions as to the capacity of each still, which were imposed on the recommendation of Sir John Edgar's Commission after a very thorough enquiry and mature consideration.

From the annual reports of the District Officers it appears that some experiments are being made in towns with a view of introducing the *tree-taxing system* of tari revenue. No uniform rate per tree was, however, enforced last year, as the Collector of Bhagalpur says, for fear of losing revenue. I agree with the Collector that a large detective and preventive establishment will be required if it is meant to stop the tapping of trees which are not marked or included in the schedules attached to tari licenses.

With reference to paragraph 106 of my last year's report, reproduced in the margin, Mr. Bernard, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, writes:—

Mr. Carstairs writes:—"We have found that the pachwai shops have too often been centres of disorder, as many as 80 to 100 getting together and drinking to excess. Dacoities and crimes were also arranged at such places, and they brought distress on many families by getting the men into the habit of tippling every day instead of, as was formerly the case, contenting themselves with an occasional spree on home-brewed."

A proposal for remedying this state of things was made by the Deputy Commissioner towards the close of the year, but it was disallowed as being too late. The Deputy Commissioner hopes to be able to bring it forward in proper time this year.

"A recommendation was made to close ten pachwai shops in the district, but the Board of Revenue have not yet agreed to this. Pachwai shops are believed to do considerable harm to the Sonthals." I have asked the Deputy Commissioner to submit proposals to me for abolishing such shops as are doing harm, so that I may address the Commissioner of Excise on the subject.

The Collector of Bhagalpur states that there was a large falling off in the number of petty cases of smuggling of Nipal liquor and ganja on the frontier. In the Rajmahal subdivision 54 persons were improperly prosecuted for tapping tari for home consumption. The cases were eventually

withdrawn on its being pointed out to the Subdivisional Officer that such acts did not constitute any offence.

XX.—STAMPS.

85. The following table shows the revenue derived during the year 1894-95 from the sale of stamps used under the Indian Stamp Act I of 1879 and of stamps used under the Court-fees Act VII of 1870 in each district of the Division:—

DISTRICT.	Total revenue.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1893-94.	1894-95.		
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Monghyr	2,88,411	2,94,642	6,231	...
Bhagalpur	2,90,730	3,19,270	28,540	...
Purnea	2,82,410	2,85,392	2,982	...
Malda	1,17,892	1,22,561	4,669	...
Sonthal Parganas ...	1,23,824	1,36,960	13,136	...
Total ...	11,03,267	11,58,825	55,558	...

It will be seen that there was a general divisional increase of about 5 per cent. The increase in revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps is attributed mainly to the renewal of bonds for heavy sums owed by the Baneli estate, and to such stamps having been largely used for sale certificates in civil courts. The increase in the sale of adhesive and impressed court-fee stamps is due in Monghyr to the large sale of four-anna stamps for cess revaluation processes; in Bhagalpur to the institution of suits of considerable value by the Baneli zamindar against one of his relatives; in Purnea to the sale of eight stamps for Rs. 1,000 each for a probate; in Malda to the institution of a large number of rent suits by the zamindar of Chanchal against his tenants; and in the Sonthal Parganas to a large increase in the number of civil suits instituted during the year.

The number of cases in which duty and penalty were realised by civil courts under section 34 of Act I of 1879 was 81 against 78 in the year 1893-94, the amounts realised being Rs. 731 and Rs. 784, respectively. The number of cases in which duty and penalty were realised by Collectors was 324 against 380. The Collector of Monghyr, where the decrease was largest, attributes it to the fact that parties are now better acquainted with the law and generally consult Sub-Registrars before the execution of their documents. The amount of duty and penalty realised by Collectors was Rs. 1,964 against Rs. 2,335.

Criminal prosecutions were instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Indian Stamp Act I of 1879 in 133 cases, 160 persons being brought to trial, of whom 135 were convicted and 24 acquitted. The amount of fines imposed was Rs. 956, out of which only Rs. 45 were paid as rewards. The attention of all Collectors has been specially drawn to Rule 1, Part II, page 117 of the Stamp Manual, and to the policy of giving rewards liberally in such cases.

XXI.—INCOME-TAX.

86. The results of the year's administration are summarised below and compared with those of the previous year:—

Year.	Number of persons assessed.	Total demand, including arrears, costs, penalty, &c.	Total collections, including arrears, costs, penalty, &c.	Remissions.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894-95	11,219	2,61,630	2,56,968	1,356	3,871
1893-94	11,031	2,56,978	2,52,402	2,381	3,340
	+188	+4,657	+4,566	-1,025	+531

The greater part of the balance, viz. Rs. 2,249, is outstanding in the Purnea district, and as much as Rs. 1,289 of it is said to be of doubtful recovery.

This is the only blot on the administration of the tax in this Division; otherwise efficiency and improvement are evinced: by an *increase* (i) in receipts; (ii) in the number of villages visited by assessing officers; (iii) in the ratio of population assessed to villages visited; and (iv) in the percentage of collection: and by a *decrease* (i) of the percentage of exemption after assessment; (ii) of reductions on revision; (iii) of remissions; and (iv) of objections filed, the percentage of which is only 9·5 against 11·1 last year, and 14·8, the average of the previous eight years. The Officiating Collector of Bhagalpur (Mr. B. K. Mullick) makes the following remarks regarding the unpopularity of the tax:—

“The tax continues to be as unpopular as ever, and the sympathy of the people is always with the assesses. This, more than anything else, leads to unjust assessment. The information, generally available, is either vague or malicious. In almost all objection cases the objector takes a wrong line of defence, either entirely denying any income or putting forward figures which are apparently absurd; and it is often impossible to act justly, however anxious one is to do so.”

None of the other Collectors have said anything on this subject. The fact appears to be that, with all its faults and defects, the income-tax has come to be generally accepted as a financial necessity from which there is no escape. Government officers, assesses and the press are all tired of their ineffectual protests against its suitability to this country, and have resigned themselves to the inevitable. That there has been so little friction and open discontent in the working of the Act is highly creditable to the administration of the district officers.

XXII.—MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS.

87. There was a general decrease in both receipts and issues of currency notes in all the districts of this Division during the year 1894-95 as compared with the preceding year. The Collector of Monghyr thinks that the decrease in receipts was due to the mahajans having made their remittances to Calcutta and other places in currency notes, and therefore being able to spare fewer notes for payment of Government dues. The decrease in issues was due to the smaller number of notes available for the purpose.

The Collector of Bhagalpur has not given any reasons for the decrease in his district. In Purnea the decrease in receipts both in payment of Government dues and in exchange for silver was due to the very small amount of currency notes received at the land revenue kist of March. The accumulation of silver was very great in consequence of the dullness of the import and export trade in rabi crops, jute, oilseeds and other commodities.

The short stock of notes and the stoppage of their supply by the Accountant-General, Bengal, at times when there were demands for them, account for the decrease in issues. The Collector of Malda reports that, owing to the discontinuance of transactions in hundis by private firms, the demand for and

use of currency notes increased in his district, that they were largely used by private parties and never brought into the Government treasury. The decrease in the Sonthal Parganas was not large. Currency notes were in much demand at Dumka and Deoghur, where the Marwaris and other traders ask for them in exchange for silver to enable them to make their remittances to Calcutta. At Rajmahal the receipts were generally larger than the issues, because the traders of Rajmahal and Sahibganj got their remittances from Calcutta in currency notes, which they exchanged for silver for the purpose of purchasing grain, seed, &c., and of making payments to workmen.

Supply bills of the value of Rs. 50,000 were cashed in Malda during the year against Rs. 1,86,700 in the preceding year. The decrease was due to the dulness of the silk trade in that district.

The transactions in copper coin did not present any unusual feature during the year under report.

XXIII.—RAILWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS.

88. No new lines of railway were constructed during the year, except
Railways.
sidings from the Sultanganj and Maharajpur stations on the East Indian Railway to the riverside.

Surveys were made for a branch line from Garhara on the Tirhut State Railway to a point opposite to Khagaria on the Gandak, a mart of considerable importance, between which and Monghyr the East Indian Railway has a steam ferry. An extension of this line from Khagaria through the Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions of the Bhagalpur district to Bhaptiahi or Raghupur on the Tirhut State Railway is said to be contemplated. Both lines would be of immense service in opening up the trans-Gangetic tracts of this Division. The proposed line from Bhagalpur to Bausi, with prospective extensions to Deoghur on one side and to the Ahmadpur or Cynthia station of the East Indian Railway, loop line, on the other (for which the District Board of Bhagalpur gave a concession to Sir William Hudson), has been surveyed, but nothing is known as to the prospects of its construction. It would open up the Sonthal Parganas, and be a great boon to the tract of country which lies between the loop and chord lines of the East Indian Railway, to which also it would be a valuable feeder.

89. Three cases of obstruction on the East Indian Railway occurred in the Monghyr district, but no clue was discovered as to the perpetrators. In one case punitive police were employed under the sanction of Government to watch the line at a cost of Rs. 366.

90. There were 25 railway accidents in this district during the year (against 19 in 1893-94), the number of persons killed being 12 and wounded 13.

91. The Collector of Bhagalpur writes:—

“It appears that on the Tirhut State Railway only one compartment is reserved for third class female passengers. Considering the large traffic on that part of the line which passes through North Bhagalpur, I think the accommodation utterly inadequate. The Railway authorities have intimated that better accommodation will shortly be provided.”

I saw many bad cases of the overcrowding of third class carriages when I travelled over this line last cold weather. Only one railway accident is reported from this district, in which a boy of 12 years of age got crushed by a waggon during shunting operations at Colgong station.

92. The Collector of Purnea reports as follows:—

“The up train which reaches Purnea at 10-50 A.M. used to arrive several hours late for some time in December last, as the East Indian Railway Company, owing to the silting up of the river-bed, discontinued the Sikrigati ghat and adopted the route *via* Tinpahar and Rajmahal. Great inconvenience was felt by the public on account of this change in the route, and after some time it was given up. The East Indian Railway Company now run their train *via* Maharajpur, where goods and passengers for the Assam-Bihar Railway lines are carried by a steamer to the Manihari ghat station.

“A local train has been running between Parbatipur and Purnea since January last. It arrives at Purnea at 12-55, and leaves again for Parbatipur at 1-35 P.M. in the day. This local train runs in connection with the down

Darjeeling mail and the Assam express, and is intended to facilitate journey to Calcutta *via* the East Bengal line.

"Formerly only one train used to run each way daily between Purnea and Forbesganj, but there was only one train per day between Forbesganj and Anchra. In the year under report two trains were running throughout the length of the line. The want of a waiting-room at the Anchra railway station was brought to the notice of the Manager, who said that the number of first and second class passengers was too small to justify the construction of a waiting-room. At the Anchra ghat station, whence passengers are crossed over the Kosi, there is no shed for the third class passengers. This is a want which should be removed without delay by erecting even a *cutch* shed."

One accident is reported from this district in which three persons were killed, and there were five cases of obstruction.

93. In the Sonthal Parganas there were 12 accidents, half of which were of minor importance. The following account is given by the Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, of the serious accidents and of other matters affecting the East Indian Railway Company:—

"An up passenger train started from Madhupur before its guard was in his van. He reported the matter to the assistant station-master, who at once sent off a pilot engine as far as the distant signal to ascertain if the train had stopped. The pilot returned with the message that the train had come to a standstill a mile from the distant signal. The assistant station-master then again deputed the pilot with the guard to convey him to his van on the train. On reaching the distant signal it was noticed that the train was coming back towards Madhupur. The driver of the pilot engine tried to reverse, but failed somehow to do so. It thus ran into the passenger train, damaging the brakevan and two third class carriages next to it. No passenger was seriously wounded. After departmental enquiry the assistant station-master was fined Rs. 50.

"A male intermediate class passenger, in attempting to jump out of the train while in motion near the Madhupur up distant signal, sustained severe injuries in several places. He had a ticket from Howrah to Hooghly, and it appears that he jumped out of the train to avoid detection. He died in Giridih hospital.

"On the 28th February 1895 the guard of No. 8 down passenger train was standing on the line between the buffers of his own brakevan and those of the bank pilot engine, which had just been uncoupled from the rear of the train. The train having overshot the water column by about half a waggon's length set back a little without due warning or signals by the station-master. The guard was crushed to death instantly. The driver was tried by the Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 under section 304, Indian Penal Code, read with rule 254 of the Government rules under the Railway Act. He was dealt with leniently, as there was contributory negligence on the part of the deceased guard.

"In the Rajmahal subdivision the child of a female cooly was killed by a fall of a boulder from an uncovered waggon below which he was sitting and which was being loaded at the time. The mother of the child was to blame for the accident.

"A man was run over by the mail train at night between Sahibganj and Pirpointi railway stations. He was stopping with a friend at a level crossing. It is supposed that he got up at night, and being half asleep sat down by mistake between the rails, when the mail came up and ran over him.

"An insane Sonthal was run over by the down mail train between Kotalpokur and Bahwa. It was elicited, during the enquiry that the man was subject to temporary fits of insanity and had strayed from home the previous day.

"There has been more than one attempt made to derail the trains on a section of the loop line between Pakour and Nalhati stations. It is believed that these attempts have been made or instigated by the heads of gangs employed on the maintenance of the permanent-way, in the hope of getting rid of a Permanent-way Inspector of European extraction who was stricter with them than his predecessor. For one of these attempts made in October 1894 a khalasie was recently sent up for trial and was convicted by me as Sessions Judge and sentenced to transportation for life. The sentence in this case was upheld on appeal."

94. *Other public works.*—A new treasury building is under construction at Monghyr at a cost of Rs. 20,227.

In *Bhagalpur* similar increased accommodation is urgently needed, but cannot be provided for want of funds. New wards in the central jail were under construction during the year. The scheme for the extension of the *Bhagalpur* municipal water-works to other parts of the town was matured during the year, and is now under examination by the Sanitary Board. A handsome building was constructed by the pleaders of *Bhagalpur* during the year on Government land for use as a Bar Library.

In *Purnea* a considerable amount of embankment work was done by the District Board to prevent the encroachments of the river Kosi. Special enquiries were made as to the protective works likely to be required in future, and the result is now before Government.

In *Malda* the office of the District Board was enlarged at a cost of Rs. 1,000. A new under-trial ward in the district jail was completed at a cost of Rs. 4,492, and a new well was under construction. On the new zilla school building, which is to cost Rs. 13,000, but little progress was made. Only Rs. 2,345 was spent during the year in making bricks and laying the foundations.

XXIV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

95. This Division is on the whole fairly well off as regards communication by rail, road, and river. Its wants as regards subsidiary railways and feeder roads to existing lines grow apace, while the funds available for their construction are inelastic and almost stationary, and the financial difficulties of Government prevent its giving that assistance on which the local officers in more prosperous times invariably relied. The income of the District Boards barely suffice to maintain existing roads and bridges; and though the Government grant to the Sonthal Parganas Road Fund has recently been increased, it is still far below the requirements of that district, where the Road Cess Act is not in force. All large original works and schemes have to be carried out piecemeal as funds become available year by year. As a rule existing communications by road were well maintained throughout the year in all districts of the Division. I was particularly well pleased with the state of the roads, bridges, and bungalows in the district of *Bhagalpur*, many of which I passed over during my cold-weather tour, and consider that they reflect great credit on the District Engineer, Mr. James Robinson.

In *Purnea* considerable damage was done by floods from the Kosi, the ravages of which river have cost the District Board a considerable sum of money for embankments and training works, to say nothing of the cost of the special surveys and enquiries which the vagaries of that river rendered necessary during the year under report.

96. In the Sonthal Parganas no less than Rs. 10,879 was spent on bridges and causeways, which are the great want of that district. Three very necessary inspection bungalows at *Jamtara*, *Godda*, and *Pakour* were also completed, or nearly so, during the year at a cost of about Rs. 1,500 each. Mr. Craven, when making the settlement of parganas *Amhar* and *Sultanabad* in the last-named subdivision, demarcated all existing roads and tracks and had them noted in the settlement papers. The Subdivisional Officer of *Pakour*, Mr. E. McLaren Smith, has had a register made of all these roads, and it is hoped that by this means they may be effectually preserved from the encroachments which are so dear to the hearts of raiyats who cultivate land adjoining roads in this country. A very rare, peculiar, and pleasing feature in the road administration of the Sonthal Parganas is the fact that nearly 400 miles of village roads were maintained by the villagers without any cost to the District Road Fund. The zamindar of *Mahagama* also presented the fund with a sum of Rs. 2,500 for the construction of a masonry bridge of 3 spans of 10 feet each on the *Godda-Peerponti* road.

Mr. J. H. Bernard, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, writes:—

“A unique feature of this district is the amount of work done free of charge on roads throughout the district, but more especially in the *Damin-i-koh*. Coming to the Sonthal Parganas from a Bengal Road Cess district, where

no one will take the trouble to put a single spadeful of earth in a hole on the road in front of his house, although there may be a bank of earth a few feet from it, one cannot but be surprised to find that many wide roads which one finds, at any rate in the cold weather, in very fair order, cost nothing to the road fund. Jugal parganite, of Gopikundar, in particular, is an excellent road-maker, and causes the villagers of his pargana to make cuttings and raise embankments, which, if paid for, would cost hundreds of rupees for nothing.

"During my tour I saw Mr. Smith laying out a road down a very steep hill. The whole of this work was being done for nothing, or, at any rate, in the expectation of only a small present, and no one murmured when the workers were told that the alignment they had been working on was too steep, and would have to be altered. In the Damin-i-koh, at any rate, the rents are very low, and the people understand that in return for this they must work, and they are usually very ready to do so."

This admirable spirit of self-help has been greatly developed and encouraged by the personal influence of Mr. Carstairs, and it cannot be too highly praised.

97. *Arboriculture*.—The following information regarding the planting and maintenance of trees on the sides of roads is given in accordance with paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 4366, dated the 28th December 1894:—

In Monghyr about 22,000 fruit trees, chiefly mango and jack, and a few mahogany, barh, pipal trees, were maintained at a cost of Rs. 2,564.

In Bhagalpur about 1,600 trees (of which 165 dead plants were replaced by new ones) were maintained at a cost of Rs. 828. The following kinds of trees were also purchased—*Polyalthia-longifolia-sweetenia*, *mohogani-sweetenia-macrophylla*, *layersbreccia-regenæ*.

In Purnea nothing was spent under this head. The Magistrate promises that the matter will be attended to in the year 1895-96.

In Malda 375 mango seedlings were planted at a cost of Rs. 143.

In the Sonthal Parganas 437 trees, chiefly fruit trees, were newly planted, and 1,012 maintained at a cost of Rs. 537.

The revenue derived from the sale of the fruits of road-side trees is still inconsiderable. The trees being planted in long lines, it is difficult to protect the fruit from the depredations of monkeys, travellers, and villagers. So far as the provision of shade for the comfort and convenience of travellers is concerned, I think the *pipal* and *bar* are superior to all other trees, inasmuch as they are easily planted, and, being of quick growth, require little or no care when once they have taken root. If fruit trees be planted, I think clumps of them near some well, tank or river, are better than long avenues, not only because the fruits can be more easily watched, but also because no traveller expects to walk in continuous shade, and is contented to rest and refresh himself once or twice during his journey.

XXV.—WORKING OF THE LODGING-HOUSE ACT.

98. This Act is only in force in one town in this Division, viz. Deoghur in the Sonthal Parganas, where the celebrated shrine of Baidyanath is situated. The Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, gives the following account of the working of the Act during the year:—

"The number of licenses issued during the year was 149 against 198 in the preceding year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,888 against Rs. 1,872 in 1893-94. The increase in receipts, accompanied by a fall in the number of licenses, is due to the imposition and realisation of fines amounting to Rs. 384 against only Rs. 28 in the preceding year.

"Owing to the inadequate privy and latrine accommodation in some of the lodging-houses, the Subdivisional Officer had to suspend their licenses. This could have been avoided if from the outset the Health Officer had done his duty before recommending the grant of licenses. While he was on leave, his *locum tenens* pointed out that lodging-houses had been certified to be fit without any regard to the provision of privy accommodation. Mr. Heard, the Subdivisional Officer, was firm in suspending the licenses of all lodging-houses where suitable and sufficient latrine accommodation had not been provided. This of course created much discontent; but when people found that they could not

get round the law, they gave in; and now nearly all old licensees have done what was required of them, and have had their licenses restored to them. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 2,617 against Rs. 1,406 in 1893-94. The large increase was partly due to the contribution of Rs. 1,460 to the local municipal funds, and partly to the construction of a bridge over the flood-escape channel of the Siva Ganga tank. Twenty-six prosecutions were instituted during the year (including one pending from the previous year) against an equal number of persons, 25 of whom were convicted and one acquitted. The chief convictions were under section 17, for keeping lodgers during suspension of license (15), and for housing in excess of the authorised number (6). Mr. Heard has exhibited both tact and firmness in his proceedings under the Act in a town where the majority of the population is bitterly opposed to sanitary reform in any shape."

XXVI.—EDUCATION.

99. The subjoined table compares the number of schools and the number of pupils attending them during the last two years:—

CLASS OF INSTITUTIONS.		1893-94.		1894-95		Average number of pupils, 1894-95.
		Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	
1		2	3	4	5	6
<i>Public Institutions.</i>						
Secondary	{ High English ...	18	3,492	18	3,498	194.8
	{ Middle " ...	35	1,966	35	2,035	68.1
	{ " Vernacular ...	45	2,668	45	2,743	60.9
Primary	{ Upper Primary ...	230	9,714	244	10,051	41.1
	{ Lower " ...	3,019	63,355	3,155	66,353	21.0
Special	... ..	21	333	14	358	25.6
Female	... ..	234	3,990	272	4,559	16.7
Total		3,602	85,538	3,783	89,597	...
<i>Private Institutions.</i>						
Advanced, teaching—						
Arabic or Persian ...		295	2,577	315	2,793	8.8
Sanskrit ...		160	1,261	138	1,173	8.5
Elementary, teaching Vernacular only—						
(a) With 10 pupils and upwards ...		29	458	16	215	13.4
(b) With less than 10 pupils ...		728	4,221	688	4,218	6.1
Teaching the Koran only ...		102	994	93	864	9.0
Other schools ...		31	642	43	707	16.4
Total		1,345	10,153	1,296	9,970	...
GRAND TOTAL		4,947	95,691	5,079	99,567	...

100. It will be seen that there has been a net gain of 132 schools with 3,876 pupils, and that the gain is shared by all the districts, except Malda, which experienced a loss of 38 schools with 574 pupils.

The number of secondary schools remained the same as last year, but the attendance at them increased by 130 pupils, 6 in high English, 69 in middle English and 55 in middle vernacular schools.

Primary education advanced by 150 schools with 3,335 pupils; upper primaries increased by 14 schools with 337 pupils, and the lower primaries by 136 schools with 2,998 pupils. While all the other districts of the Division gained both schools and pupils, Malda alone lost both. The Magistrate of that district writes:—"The upper primary schools have suffered most in both respects," and he gives the reason as the "scarcity of or rather rise in the price of food-grains caused by the sudden rising of the Ganges and the failure of crops" in two thanas. The Assistant Inspector of Schools (Babu Mathura Nath Chatterjee), however, thinks that the decline may be due "to the growing ill-health of the district." Comparatively, however, the general health of the district was rather better last year than in 1893-94 as shown in paragraph 20. The Magistrate and the District Board will be asked to pay special attention in future to the spread of primary education in this district.

Under the head of Special schools there was a loss of 7 schools with 25 pupils, which is the net result of the abolition of 8 guru-training classes attached to middle schools (6 in Monghyr and 2 in the Sonthal Parganas), and of the opening of an industrial school in the latter district. The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas writes that technical education is making some progress in his district.

Female education shows a gain of 38 schools with 569 pupils, Monghyr gaining 17 and Bhagalpur 22 schools. Malda lost 3 schools and 120 girls, but the Magistrate reports that there was an increase in the number of girls taught in the boys' schools.

101. Two hundred and ten candidates from this Division appeared at the Entrance examination during the year under review, of whom 103, or 49 per cent., passed against 47·5 per cent. in the previous year.

Of the Government zilla schools, those at Dumka and Malda did very well, passing 6 and 9, respectively, out of 7 and 11 sent up.

Of the aided schools Jamalpur did remarkably well in passing 17 out of 19. The result shown by the Deoghur school was also very satisfactory, as 7 out of 8 passed from that school.

Of the unaided schools the Victoria Jubilee school passed only 2 out of 17; the Kamaleshwari Prosad Institution 1 out of 13; Barari 2 out of 17, and Bhagalpur Madrassa 4 out of 11. I think the educational authorities should take some notice of private schools like the above which unnecessarily send up so many boys only to be plucked.

Twenty-seven middle English schools sent up 105 candidates for middle scholarship examination, of whom 62 passed, 28 obtaining middle English and the rest middle vernacular certificates. Ninety-eight candidates from 36 schools appeared at the middle vernacular examination, of whom 72 were successful, all but one obtaining middle vernacular certificates. Eighty private students competed at these examinations, of whom 36 passed, 4 obtaining middle English and 32 middle vernacular certificates.

At the upper primary examination 352 candidates appeared from 152 schools, and 266 candidates were successful from 131 schools. Besides the above, 32 candidates from secondary schools and 34 private students were also successful at this examination. Of the 823 lower primary schools which sent up 2,624 candidates for the lower primary scholarship examination, 719 schools passed 1,958 candidates, including 133 girls. Besides these, 36 candidates from secondary and 633 from upper primary schools and 57 private students passed this examination.

102. The number of Muhammadan pupils in all classes of schools increased from 20,678 to 22,063, while the percentage of the Muhammadan male population to the total male population of the Division was 20·3. The percentage of Muhammadan pupils to total school population was 22·1 against 21·5 in the preceding year. There was thus some improvement both in the number of Muhammadan pupils and in their percentage.

103. The number of aboriginal pupils declined by 14, 6,183 pupils having been returned during the year under report against 6,197 in the year preceding. Monghyr showed an increase of 75 pupils, Purnea of 11, and the Sonthal Parganas of 54, while Bhagalpur and Malda lost 106 and 48 pupils, respectively. No explanation of the decrease is given. The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas writes that there was an increase in the number of *Dhangar* pupils due to the establishment of two lower primary schools in the Godda subdivision at villages where they form the majority of the population.

Of 5,598 aboriginal pupils in the Sonthal Parganas, 5,408 were Sonthals, 155 Paharias, 3 Kols and 32 Dhangars. Of 197 schools for Sonthals 135 received aggregate stipends of Rs. 7,500 from the Damin-i-koh Fund. The total expenditure from this fund was Rs. 7,494 against Rs. 7,374 in the year before. Taking the population and the children of school-going age into consideration, one Sonthal in every 15·2 and one Paharia in every 60·5 was at school.

104. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Bernard, writes:—"The Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal remarks on the difficulty of realising subscriptions and on the callousness of the Sonthals with regard to education. It is remarkable that of nine parganais in the portion of the Damin-i-koh within the Sadar sub-

division less than half can read and write. Most of them take no steps to get their sons taught." It appears, however, that 18·2 per cent. of the boys of school-going age in the Sonthal Parganas now attend the schools.

105. The total cost for educational institutions in this Division amounted to Rs. 3,77,907 against Rs. 3,67,587 in 1893-94. Of this amount Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 42,698, District Boards Rs. 60,925, and municipal funds Rs. 7,830. The collections from fees showed a falling off from Rs. 1,95,470 in 1893-94 to Rs. 1,92,522 in 1894-95. The income from other sources also decreased from Rs. 78,180 to Rs. 73,932. The cost per head of pupil was Rs. 4·2 last year as against Rs. 4·1 in the preceding year.

106. The proportion of the number of boys attending the schools to the total number of boys of school-going age improved from 13·6 to 14·2. The Magistrates do not say anything about the discipline in schools and the physical and moral training of the boys. They will be asked to notice these important subjects in future reports.

XXVII.—DISPENSARIES AND HOSPITALS.

107. The following table gives the particulars of the 30 dispensaries in this Division during the year under report and the previous year:—

YEAR.	INCOME FROM—					EXPENDITURE.	TOTAL NUMBER TREATED.			Daily average number of in-patients.	Daily average number of out-patients.	Cost of diet per in-patient.	REMARKS.
	Municipal grant.	District Board grant.	Government.	Private subscriptions, endowments, &c.	Total.		In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.						Rs A. P.	
1894	18,982	11,034	2,112	28,674	61,702	53,718	4,902	133,434	158,336	194·7	1,186·4	0 1 5	17.
1893	16,361	9,539	2,848	22,510	51,258	46,038	5,945	130,120	131,065	175·6	1,124·5	0 1 4	15.

It will be seen that there has been a general increase in income and expenditure of the number of patients and of the cost of their diet.

The remarks made under head IV (Public Health) amply account for this increase. There is still a great deal of room for improvement in the matter of punctual payment of subscriptions, and constant pressure by Government officials is necessary to make many of the subscribers pay up. Some of the dispensaries have been driven to the expedient of refusing medical aid to defaulters and their families until they have paid up. The work of inspection by Civil Surgeons and by District and Subdivisional Officers is reported to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

In the Government Damin-i-koh estate in the Dumka subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas an attempt is being made to raise a general fund for the maintenance of the dispensary at Katikhund. The Deputy Commissioner writes:—"Parganaitis have been directed to collect a subscription of one anna a year from every house in villages in the Dumka Damin. Till now, only those rural villages which comprised 16 or more houses have subscribed one rupee annually. The above arrangement will be fairer and should lead to an increase in funds, and will, moreover, bring home to all the fact that there is a dispensary in existence."

108. Besides the seven Government dispensaries in the Sonthal Parganas, the Raja of Pakour maintains one at that place entirely at his own cost. It is situated in his house and treated 10,652 persons during the year under report at a cost of Rs. 2,012. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following account of the various Mission dispensaries in the Sonthal Parganas.

"The following were the Mission dispensaries:—

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 1. Benagaria | ... | ... | Dumka subdivision. |
| 2. Khairbani | ... | ... | Jamtara ditto. |
| 3. Dharampur | ... | ... | Rajmahal ditto. |
| 4. Taljhari | ... | ... | |
| 5. Pathra | ... | ... | Godda ditto. |

"Numbers 1 to 4 received a Government grant of Rs. 10 each per mensem. The total expenditure on account of these institutions comes to Rs. 3,003, so

the grand total of expenditure on private dispensaries amounted to Rs. 5,015 against Rs. 5,479 last year. At Benagaria and Khairbani 2,065 in-door patients were treated. In all the six dispensaries 22,923 out-patients received medical aid. The homœopathic system of treatment is administered at Khairbani by Mr. Haegert. According to his own account the institution is successful, but no regular account of patients is kept. Dharampur and Taljhari dispensaries are well managed."

The increasing utility and popularity of these institutions hardly admits of a doubt.

XXVIII.—LIBRARIES.

109. As last year, there was a public library at the head-quarters of the Bhagalpur district and two smaller ones at Banka and Supaul. These latter are public libraries only in name: the books are not generally read, and I found the subscriptions at Supaul very much in arrear.

A new public library was started during the year at English Bazar (Malda) under the patronage of some of the local pleaders and a few native officials. It is only kept open for a limited time during the day. There are East Indian Railway Mechanics' Institutes at Jamalpur and Madhupur. Bar libraries at the head-quarters of the Monghyr, Bhagalpur, and Purnea districts are kept up by the local pleaders.

The books in all the district office libraries were re-arranged during the year, and useless and obsolete publications were weeded out, and were either sold by auction or otherwise disposed of.

XXIX.—MUSEUMS

110. There were no museums in this Division during the year 1894-95.

XXX.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

111. The number of municipalities in the Division remained the same as it was last year, and little or no change occurred in their condition. The application of modern western ideas of sanitation to eastern towns is not only a difficult but a very costly operation. The municipal authorities cannot carry the people with them, not only because sanitary reform means extra taxation, but also because conservative as they are they cannot divest themselves in a day of the habits of generations. In most of the municipalities in this Division the Municipal Commissioners are engaged in a

Municipality.	
Monghyr	{ Monghyr. Jamalpur. Jamui.
Bhagalpur	{ Bhagalpur. Colgong.
Purnea	{ Purnea. Kishanganj.
Malda	{ English Bazar. Old Mala.
Sonthal Parganas	{ Deoghur. Sahibganj.

constant struggle to make both ends meet and to steer clear of any very unfavourable remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner or local auditor. Unless they are rich enough to afford a paid Secretary, the supervision of outdoor work has practically to take care of itself. No funds are available unless a loan be obtained from Government for any new works or improvements, however necessary or advisable they may be. It is not therefore, I think, to be wondered at that true Local Self-Government seldom or never stirs out of the meeting rooms of the Municipal Commissioners. The municipal cart sticks in the mud, but as a rule no Municipal Commissioner puts his shoulder to the wheel.

112. In the Monghyr Municipality the crying wants are a drainage system and an improved water-supply. The drains in many of the principal streets of the town have been

covered over and encroached upon to such an extent as to seriously affect the general health. A drainage scheme is contemplated, but surveys have not yet been prepared. The question of the removal of existing obstructions is beset with difficulties, and Government has been asked to give its advice in the matter after consulting the Law Officers of the Crown.

The large proportion of Europeans who reside in the town of Jamalpur (chiefly employes in the East Indian Railway workshops) renders its circumstances somewhat peculiar, and its management is a good deal above the average. The question of the abolition of the municipality of Jamui, which is really a collection of agricultural villages, was taken up and thoroughly gone into by

Mr. Phillips during the year under report. The result is a notification issued during the current year under section 9 (a), and I have no doubt that the abolition will be hailed with joy by the inhabitants.

113. The only matter of special importance in this district was the extension of the Bhagalpur water-works to other parts of the town. Of the work of the Bhagalpur Municipal Commissioners, the Officiating Magistrate, Mr. B. K. Mullick, writes as follows:—

“It will thus be seen that the Commissioners of the Bhagalpur Municipality have during the year under report showed a healthy energy in looking after the most crying wants of the Corporation and in utilising the slender funds at their command by increased expenditure in the direction where it was most needed.

“The water-works still require to be extended to the remote Champagnagore and Nathnagore wards and to some of the more important street and lanes near the civil station, and pukka drains are wanted in two of the most populous quarters of the town. It is hopeless, however, to carry on these much-needed improvements from the ordinary income, and an application has been made for a loan of three lakhs which it is hoped will soon be sanctioned. It is to be feared, however, that the additional burden which must necessarily be imposed on the tax-payers—

(1) to meet the interest on the loan,
(2) to provide for a sinking fund,
(3) for the working charges connected with the extended water-works, will bear hard on the poorer rate-payers. This fear is grounded on the fact that even at the present moderate rate of assessment there was an outstanding balance of Rs. 16,736 on the 31st March 1895 out of a gross demand of Rs. 87,986. There is also reason to believe that the incidence of house assessment presses more heavily on the poorer than on the richer classes, and the revision of the assessment by an agency independent of the Municipal Commissioners will be a move in the right direction.

“A good water-supply is a most excellent thing, but it is possible to pay too dearly for it. The only way to lessen the burden and to mitigate injustice is to have a paid assessor.”

The proposal to create a new municipality at Sultanganj has been finally dropped.

114. Both of the municipalities in this district, Purnea and Kishanganj, are exceptionally difficult to manage, owing to their great size and straggling shape and to the inclusion within their limits of much arable land and jungle. I made some enquiries when I was on tour at Kishanganj with a view of reducing the municipal area, but I found that the question was beset with difficulties, and that the probable expansion of the trade and importance of the place since it was opened out by the extension to it of a branch of the Assam-Bihar State Railway rendered any present change inadvisable.

115. The English Bazar Municipality in this district distinguished itself unfavourably during the year under report by general inefficiency and by an almost total collapse of the Collection Department. Under constant pressure by the District Magistrate and threats of suspension under section 65 matters were not so bad at the close as they were at the beginning of the year.

116. Of the Deoghur Municipality the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. J. H. Bernard, writes:—

“The chief work of improvement done during the year was the extension of the main pukka drain by 292 feet at a cost of Rs. 1,141. It has been decided by the Commissioners to complete this drain. They propose at first to appeal to the public for funds, and should this appeal be unsuccessful to apply to Government for loan. The cost is roughly estimated at Rs. 10,000.

“Dr. Deare, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, inspected the municipality in July 1894 and criticised its action in many respects. He condemned the Hindu cremation ground, the swamp into which the municipal main drain then discharged, the latrines, the wells, &c. His suggestions have received proper consideration. On his recommendation the Muhammadan burial-ground, situated in the heart of the town, is to be removed to a reasonable distance. The present Chairman, Mr. Heard, has shown both firmness and tact in insisting

on sanitary reform. The collections during the year were nearly cent. per cent., and the office was found to be in absolutely correct order by the local Auditor."

Of the Sahibganj Municipality he says:—

"The Sahibganj Municipality has made a considerable advance during the year under report. The present Vice-Chairman, who is the Civil Hospital Assistant in charge of the dispensary, is energetic, and does not absent himself from the town as his predecessor used to do. The late District Traffic Superintendent, Mr. Kelly, was Chairman during the greater part of the year till he was transferred and did valuable work. Attention is being paid to sanitary improvements. The drainage from houses on its banks has been prevented from flowing into the important tank in the middle of the town, wells have been protected from pollution, and it is proposed to make a survey of the town with levels with the view of improving the drainage. The improvement of the slaughter-house has been taken in hand. The income should be larger than it is, as the East Indian Railway Company do not pay taxes at the same rate as other owners of holdings in the town. The Company have delayed to furnish the return called for; otherwise the matter would have already been submitted for the orders of Government."

District and Local Boards.

117. Of the District and Local Boards it may be said as of the municipalities of this Division that their requirements increase out of all proportion to their incomes: the latter are almost stationary, while the spread of education and general opening up of the country by railways render the former more urgent year by year. The District Board of Monghyr has since the close of the year applied for a loan of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to enable it to carry out a programme of important and necessary works. They have this advantage over the municipalities that they can afford more highly-paid officers to look after their outdoor work. As these institutions have all official Chairmen (the District Magistrates) they are rather of the nature of consultative than executive bodies. They pass resolutions, and the Magistrate-Chairman and the District Engineer see that they are carried out. The number of meetings is not large owing probably to the above fact. The Local Boards act generally as agents and assistants to the District Boards and have independent control only over such funds and business as are made over to them. Generally speaking, they manage pounds and primary education. Nothing of any special importance occurred during the year under report in connection with any of the District Boards.

XXXI.—EMPLOYMENT OF MUHAMMADANS.

118. The following figures illustrate this subject and show the existing position of affairs in the Division:—

CLASS OF EMPLOYMENT.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Total number of officers in each class.	Total number of Muhammadans.	Total number of officers in each class.	Total number of Muhammadans.
1	2	3	4	5
Gazetted officers on salary above Rs. 100.	93	10	95	9
Gazetted officers on salary of Rs. 100 and less.	3	1	3	...
Ministerial officers ...	789	131	809	137
Menials ...	1,169	500	1,340	618
	2,054	642	2,247	664

The percentages of columns 3 to 2 and 5 to 4 are 31·2 and 29·5, respectively, and the percentage of Muhammadan to that of the Hindu population is 27·8. The figures show that little or no progress has been made in carrying out the wishes of Government. The Collector of Purnea observes that the Muhammadans in his district "are mostly agricultural and illiterate. Those who have some education take service under zamindars, but do not aspire in large numbers to service in Government offices, their education being below the required standard." The fact appears to be that the Muhammadan candidates for vacancies on the ministerial staff are so inferior in educational requirements that they cannot be appointed without serious detriment to the efficiency of the office concerned. This is a defect which time and the exertions of the Muhammadans themselves alone can remedy.

XXXII.—POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH.

119. The record of the work done by the post offices, so far as it appears from the facts and figures furnished, was one of continued progress. New post offices were opened, and the work in every branch of the department increased. Complaints of postal irregularities were few and far between. Mr. Bernard, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, however, writes thus:—"Briefly it may be said that in the Postal and Telegraph Departments no progress towards meeting the wishes of the public was made during the year under report." From Godda complaint was made of the unpunctuality of letters from the north. Postal arrangements in this outlying part of the Division are no doubt still somewhat more primitive than elsewhere, and are capable of considerable improvement. This will come in time along with the spread of education and consequent increase of correspondence and postal work.

The Collector of Purnea writes:—"Nearly one-third of the small branch offices in the interior of the district were worked by cheap extraneous agents, such as shop-keepers and village *gurus*, who are paid a small allowance varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a month. The extension of the postal facilities to the obscure parts of the district, where costly departmental servants cannot be maintained, is mainly due to the employment of these cheap agents." The District Officer of Purnea also mentions the following extraordinary case of the misappropriation of a registered cover:—"A branch postmaster substituted an ordinary letter for the registered letter, from which he abstracted two currency notes of Rs. 100 each. He was prosecuted, and on conviction sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two years." The following is quoted from the report from the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas:—

"The Deputy Postmaster-General, Bihar Circle, was requested to make arrangements to have letters from Jamtara carried by the No. 5 up passenger train to Modhupur to be taken up by the down mail train, which does not stop at Jamtara, but the request has been refused on the ground that the number of letters is small.

"Nothing has been done to remedy the inconvenience complained of last year by the Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal arising from the fact that all insufficiently stamped and bearing letters are sent first to Dumka, many miles out of their way, by road."

Statistics regarding working of the telegraph offices have not been supplied by all the District Officers, but it may be said that the Department generally worked well. During the year under report the Maharaja of Sonbarsa in the district of Bhagalpur applied for a postal telegraph office at the Sonbarsa post office, but the arrangement has not yet been completed. In the district of Purnea the number of combined post and telegraph offices was increased by one, i.e., the Katihar sub-post office was turned into a combined post and telegraph office.

The Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas notices the fact that the restriction of the working hours from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. for the Deoghur telegraph office is considered by the public as a great inconvenience.

Generally speaking, it may be said that, considering the materials and establishments which it has to work with, especially in the more inaccessible parts of the Division, the Postal Department has done wonders. Year by year it plays a more and more

General.

important part in the domestic and commercial life of the country. Nothing but constant inspection could, I think, enable it to maintain the high standard which it has attained and to preserve the confidence of all ranks and classes of the population.

XXXIII.—ZAMINDARI DĀK.

120. The following table shows the income and expenditure during the year 1894-95 and the rate at which the cess was levied in each district:—

DISTRICT.	Income.	Expenditure.	Rate at which cess was levied.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
Monghyr ...	7,176	7,700	0 14 0
Bhagalpur ...	19,875	11,923	2 8 0
Purnea ...	12,093	9,970	1 0 0
Malda ...	8,075	7,128	1 14 0
Sonthal Parganas	6,517	4,356	3 8 0
Divisional Total	53,736	41,077	.....

The excess expenditure was met from the balance in hand (Rs. 11,794) on 1st April 1894. Except in the district of Purnea, where the rate was increased from 14 annas to one rupee, the rate was the same as in 1893-94. In the district of Monghyr three new lines, covering 61 miles, were opened during the year. In Bhagalpur the line from Amarpur to Bihar, a distance of $24\frac{1}{2}$ miles, was closed, and in its stead a new line of 23 miles from Banka to Bihar was opened. In Malda a new line from Kaliachak to Panchanandpur khas mahal was opened. The total length of the zamindari dāk lines in Purnea and in the Sonthal Parganas was the same as in the preceding year.

FAIRS.

121. Fairs of more or less importance, and generally of a religious character, were held in all the districts of this Division. The important fair at Singheswar in the Madhipura subdivision of the district of Bhagalpur was held in March last. It lasted for 12 days, but the Magistrate has not reported the number of persons who attended it last year.

The necessary sanitary arrangements were made, and where necessary a *posse* of police was told off to preserve order and to prevent theft, &c. A native doctor was deputed to the fairs at Singheswar in Bhagalpur, Karagola and Khagra in Purnea, and Ramkeli in Malda. No epidemic broke out in any of the fairs.

The following is an estimate of the number of people present at each fair:—

Bausi in the district of Bhagalpur	...	...	175,000
Kabilas	...	...	40,000
Karagola, Purnea	...	...	8,000
Khagra	...	...	50,000
Ramkeli, Malda	...	...	50,000
Rameswar, Sonthal Parganas	...	...	10,000
Dhamsavi	...	...	16,000
Deoghur, Sripanchami	...	...	8,000
" Sivaratri	...	...	15,000
" Bhadro Purnima	...	...	8,000

A fair was held for the first time in February 1895, under the auspices of the Collector of Bhagalpur, at Tintunga, a Government estate in the Sadar subdivision of this district. It included an agricultural show and lasted for two days, and was attended by about 20,000 people. The sanitary arrangements were good, and no accidents occurred.

POUNDS.

122. In the district of Monghyr the number of pounds increased from 47 in the year 1893-94 to 62 during the year under report. In all the other districts the number was nearly the same during the past two years, as noted in the margin. In the Regulation districts most of the pounds continued to be under the control of the District Boards. Those situate within municipal limits were managed by the

District.	Number of pounds.		Income.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Monghyr	47	62	Rs. 14,037	Rs. 15,381
Bhagalpur	77	76	23,598	23,178
Purnea	88	87	47,098	46,430
Malda	47	45	18,798	19,593
Sonthal Parganas ...	83	57	8,416	8,638

respective municipalities. The farming system continued to be in force. In the Sonthal Parganas all the pounds were farmed out by the Deputy Commissioner and his subordinates, except the Godda pound, which was under direct management for six months, as there was no bid for it. The Magistrate of Monghyr reports that owing to close supervision and consequent discovery of malpractices and conviction in criminal courts the revenue of the pounds under the management of the District Board fell off to some extent during the last settlement. The pound-keeper of Jamalpur was convicted of taking double fees for release of cattle, and there were also several prosecutions in the Begusarai subdivision. Regarding the abuses in his district the Magistrate of Malda, Mr. Price, writes:—"From a financial point of view the farming system is commendable; but the cattle pound farmers are generally a bad set of people. They are said to encourage malpractices in various ways, such as the improper seizure of cattle, they charge fees in excess of the authorised rates, and they refuse to grant receipts for fees paid by the owners of impounded cattle. Besides these, I have often noticed that pound farmers neither feed nor water cattle properly; there is no shed, wind and waterproof, for the shelter of the cattle that are exposed to the sun, and the fencing is broken and falling into decay."

XXXIV(a).—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

123. The Magistrate of Monghyr gives the following account of the social and political institutions in his district:—

This Association has been established by the East Indian Railway Company's employes, consisting chiefly of Bengalis, and is an imitation of similar associations in Bengal. No information has been obtained as to its working.

Jamalpur Rate-payers' Association.

This institution was established in 1888. It is under the patronage of the local Muhammadans. Its principal object is to afford relief to poor and needy Muhammadan boys and orphans by imparting to them English and Persian education. There is an educational institution in connection with it, which gave free education to 48 Muhammadan boys in the year under report. Its income during the year was Rs. 2,513 and expenditure Rs. 2,165.

Anjuman Islam Institution.

This Sabha was started in 1887 by the Kayesth community of Monghyr for the general improvement of their condition. It held 11 sittings during the year, and the average attendance of members was 62.

Kayesth Sabha.

The collection of a handful of rice every day from every Kayesth family was the principal source of its income, which amounted during the year to Rs. 127, the expenditure being Rs. 103. The education of four helpless Kayesth boys was undertaken, and a monthly allowance was given to a Kayesth widow.

This institution was started on the 24th of May 1892. Its principal object is to give shelter to all sorts of worn-out animals, specially of the bovine species, after they become unserviceable for domestic purposes. This institution was supported by funds collected in boxes placed in shops and also by donations. The total income of the Sabha during the year was Rs. 701 and the expenditure Rs. 656. These figures compared with those of last year show clearly how the interest in the movement (stimulated by the excitement of the anti-kine-killing agitation) is generally subsiding. The income last year was Rs. 1,600 and the expenditure Rs. 1,500.

There were 42 animals in the goshala on the 31st March 1894, and 189 animals were received during the year, making a total of 231. One hundred and seventy-six animals died, leaving a balance of 55 animals in the register.

There are besides the goshala at Monghyr 16 or 17 goshalas in the district. Many of them are languishing for want of support. Their chief supporters are Marwaris.

In Bhagalpur the Societies existing in the district are reported to be the same as last year, viz., the Land-holders' Association, the Muhammadan Association, the Gaurakhshini Sabha, and the Hari Sabha.

The school of the Muhammadan Association is reported to be doing well. The Gaurakhshini Sabha is said not to possess any political significance. The cow-killing movement in this district may be said to have died at its birth.

The only political institution in the district of Purnea is a branch Committee of the National Congress, but its existence does not take any practical shape.

The Collector says that there are no social or political institutions of any importance in the district of Malda, and that the people of the district do not generally concern themselves with politics, but are inclined to criticise the working of local institutions like municipalities.

The Deputy Commissioner writes:—"The Jubilee Institute with its branch at Pakour is the only social institution in the district. A building for the Pakour branch was under construction during the year. The Hijla méla, which is held under the superintendence of the member of this institution, was a great success last year, as all classes attend, and Sonthal and other dances and sports are arranged."

XXXIV (b).—STATE OF PUBLIC FEELING AND THE PRESS.

124. There has been no agitation in the Division during the year on any important subject, and the native press has been singularly free from attacks on Government officers serving in it.

The Collector of Monghyr writes:—"No newspaper is issued by the one local press. The nearest publication is at Patna. The circulation of English Calcutta papers is limited. Public feeling was not strongly exercised during the year. The excitement about the anti-kine-movement and the mud-plastering of mango trees has died out. There was a slight tension in the relations of the Shias and Sunnis over the performance of the Haziri ceremony, which, however, was soon relaxed. There were no public questions during the year which excited much local interest."

In Purnea there is no public press, nor do the people of this district appear to take much interest in any public matter.

The agitation against cow-killing does not appear to have extended to this district. The relations between Muhammadans and Hindus have been generally amicable during the year under report.

The educated classes read the *Statesman*, the *Bengali*, and *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, but the circulation of these papers is very limited. The *Bangabasi* is the principal vernacular paper read by the people both in the mufassal and in the towns.

Some of the villagers in the Jamtara and Pakour subdivisions were at the outset dissatisfied at the increase in rents effected by the last settlement, but this feeling appears to have died out.

A monthly Bengali journal, called the *Dharani*, is published from Malhati in the Dumka subdivision. Its tone is so far moderate.

XXXV.—SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE ESTABLISHMENT AND CHARACTER OF OFFICERS.

125. A statement is submitted containing my remarks and those of District Officers regarding the character of the officers employed in this Division during the year 1894-95.

Under Government Notification No. 136A.D., dated the 12th May 1894, Babu Sarat Chunder Mukerji and Mr. C. H. J. Craven were posted as Probationary Sub-Deputy Collectors in this Division, and have since been appointed to be Sub-Deputy Collectors.

No Deputy Conservators of Forests of the first three grades were posted to this Division during the year under report.

XXXVI.—CONDUCT OF ZAMINDARS.

126. The Division, as a whole, has been fortunate in the absence of any serious disputes between landlords and tenants. On the subject of the conduct of the former, the following extracts are given from the district reports:—

“Of the larger zamindars in the district, the Maharaja of Gidhour and the Raja of Khaira, are said to be enlightened. The amla of the Darbhanga and Baneli Rajas exercised some petty oppression in the matter of taking forest produce from the hills. In the thana of Shekhpura a large number of villages are let out to an utterly unscrupulous set of Muhammadan ticcadars, against whom there are frequent complaints. The disgraceful case of riot and murder at Ekara, in which eight persons were killed, is an instance of such disputes.

“In the Begusarai subdivision the maliks are mostly of little standing. The relations between them and their raiyats are not satisfactory—men of no education and little conscience. They are constantly fighting in endeavours to enhance rent and turn raiyati land into khud-kasht. The factories are, as a whole, on good terms with their tenants. Much of the land is gradually passing into the hands of mahajans and pleaders, and it cannot be said that this change is altogether to the advantage of the raiyats. On the other hand, there exist certain casts of raiyats, Babbans, and sometimes Goalas and Rajputs, who refuse utterly to pay their legal rents unless complained against, and are adepts at enforcing their rights to the uttermost. Such men are well able to protect their own interests and even to oppress their maliks.

“The conduct of zamindars was generally satisfactory during the year under review. In the Luchmipur estate in the Bhagalpur. Banka subdivision some of the raiyats combined for a time against the Manager, Mr. F. Braidwood, but he has administered the property with great success, and all disputes are now at an end. This gentleman's management is also well spoken of by the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas.

“In Supaul the Subdivisional Officer notices a serious quarrel between the Raja of Barwari and his cousin, Babu Tajendra Narain Singh. It is reported that both these gentlemen are contracting large debts on account of this dispute. The Subdivisional Officer of Banka reports favourably of the manager of the estate of Rai Tej Narain Singh Bahadur, Zamindars Mohashaya Taruk Nath Ghose and Babu Tilakdhari Lall.

“There was a dispute during the year near Manihari regarding the right to sow indigo between Babus Gour Mohan Rai and Hari Mohan Misser. A rioting case was sent up, but the accused were acquitted, and matters seem to have since quieted down.

There is a similar dispute between Mr. A. J. Shillingford and Babu Chhatraput Singh. There are other disputes about what are called *mal* and *milik* lands in many places, but the above are the most important. Rents are very low almost everywhere, and no case of oppression has come to notice except in the aforesaid disputes, where steps are said to have been taken to cause the raiyats to submit to one party or the other.

37. *Darbhanga*.—The half-yearly inspections of the district offices were made by Mr. Streatfeild in September 1894 and by Mr. Tute in February and March 1895.

38. The Madhubani and Samastipur subdivisional offices were also inspected twice during the year, viz., the former by Mr. Streatfeild in May 1894 and by Mr. Tute in February 1895, and the latter by the same officers in September and December 1894, respectively.

III.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

39. In order to explain the general character of the weather and the effect on the crops, I have had the following statement prepared from the monthly figures given in the *Calcutta Gazette*, showing the actual as compared with the normal rainfall, month by month, in each district:—

Statement showing actual rainfall, month by month, in each district as compared with normal rainfall.

MONTH.	PATNA.		GAYA.		SHAHABAD.		SARAN.		CHAMPARAN.		MUZAFFARPUR.		DARBHANGA.		AVERAGE FOR PATNA DIVISION.	
	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
April 1894	...	0'20	0'06	0'25	0'02	0'16	0'11	0'25	0'03	0'77	0'10	0'65	0'49	0'69	0'11	0'43
May	...	2'09	0'42	1'77	0'28	1'32	0'20	2'09	1'38	2'50	...	2'40	0'49	2'03	0'39	2'12
June	...	7'39	6'24	8'41	5'63	8'86	5'20	8'96	6'42	9'14	8'19	5'69	7'42	5'83	8'03	7'75
July	...	11'14	11'33	15'34	12'23	14'21	11'39	14'50	12'18	11'03	11'27	9'70	11'42	6'17	11'50	11'79
August	...	10'25	10'48	16'29	11'73	17'37	11'51	13'10	10'29	18'03	11'04	12'67	10'08	17'07	10'76	15'26
September	...	14'06	7'04	6'77	6'70	9'51	7'07	8'13	7'43	6'10	0'30	11'50	8'00	13'70	9'25	10'06
October	...	9'33	3'25	7'33	2'81	8'24	3'30	4'80	4'21	6'39	3'34	7'01	3'40	6'68	2'02	7'51
November	...	1'76	0'19	1'03	0'24	2'45	0'25	1'80	0'18	1'10	0'02	1'53	0'08	1'46	0'06	1'69
December	...	0'01	0'16	0'07	0'26	0'04	0'33	0'61	0'17	...	0'21	0'12	...	0'11	0'01	0'19
January 1895	...	0'59	0'67	0'49	0'66	0'60	0'06	0'73	0'77	0'30	0'67	0'48	0'01	0'38	0'64	0'60
February	...	0'61	0'41	0'65	0'43	0'68	0'40	0'41	0'45	0'54	0'38	0'41	0'39	0'44	0'40	0'40
March	...	0'43	0'30	0'13	0'39	0'13	0'41	0'18	0'21	0'11	0'37	0'01	0'48	0'01	0'30	0'35
Total	...	55'38	42'86	28'08	43'20	62'29	42'0	54'98	61'56	56'20	49'33	50'07	46'15	53'17	47'37	55'02
Total for 1893-94	...	51'11	42'86	47'75	43'20	49'48	42'00	47'16	61'56	79'72	40'55	54'43	46'15	51'50	47'37	54'87

It will be seen that in the three South Gangetic districts the rainfall was considerably over the average, especially in Shahabad, where some 20 inches above the normal quantity fell. To the north of the Ganges also there was an excess of some 10 inches in Saran, and from 4 to 6 inches in the Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Champaran districts.

40. From the beginning of the calendar year 1894 up to the end of

May the season was characterised by a deficient rainfall, and the preparation of lands for the *bhadoi* sowings was in consequence somewhat retarded. In June, however, the monsoon broke favourably everywhere, though the fall was somewhat short in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. But the following month of July presented unusual features, the rainfall in the districts south of the Ganges being excessive, while over a considerable portion of North Bihar, including the northern half of Muzaffarpur and the greater part of Darbhanga, there was a severe drought until nearly the end of the month, and a general failure of both the *bhadoi* and winter rice over a large tract of country was at one time imminent. Fortunately the rain at the last moment came, and was followed by good rain in August, and in the end the northern districts fared better than the others. For, while in the three South Gangetic districts the Indian-corn was considerably damaged by the unusually heavy rainfall, and the general outturn of the *bhadoi* harvest was reduced to about 9 annas, in the three northernmost districts, where, owing to the drought, the sowings were very backward and the area cropped was somewhat contracted, the yield was, in the end, a 12 to 13 annas one. In the remaining district, Saran, which suffered with the southern districts from too much rain, though not to the same

extent, the *bhadoi* crop was estimated at about 14 annas. For the whole Division the average of the *bhadoi* harvest may be taken at from 11 to 12 annas.

41. The rainfall in August was a heavy one in all the districts, the mean for the Division being about 15 inches as compared with a normal average of about 11 inches.

The winter-rice crop.

This was favourable to the winter rice, and a bumper crop was everywhere expected. Unfortunately, however, there was a heavy and unseasonable fall at the very end of October and in the first days of November, which damaged the rice in ear; and though the outturn was an unusually good one, averaging for the Division something over 15 annas, it was some 2 annas less than had at one time been hoped for. Saran here again did best with an outturn of about 17 annas, Muzaffarpur worst with a 12 to 13 annas crop, while in Patna, Gaya, and Darbhanga the yield was estimated at 16 annas.

42. But this untimely rain was more injurious to the *rabi* than to the rice. Sowings were everywhere delayed for some weeks both to the north and south of the Ganges,

The *rabi* crop.

and the germination of the seed damaged, while the lower lands, which in ordinary years grow heavy crops, could be made of little or no use, owing to excessive moisture.

Fortunately, however, the weather during the subsequent months was all that could be desired. There were beneficial showers in January and February, which brought the plants on well, and a marked absence of the high west winds in March, which so often dry up the grain. The result in the end was a yield of nearly 15 annas in the four districts to the north of the Ganges, and of 10 to 12 annas in the three districts to the south.

43. On the whole, the past year has been a decidedly prosperous one for agriculturists to the north of the Ganges, and a good average one for those to the south, except in Shahabad, where it was somewhat below the average.

44. The year was an unfortunate one for opium. The unusually heavy and late rains in October and the subsequent unsettled weather in November retarded sowings; and although the seed germinated well, yet the excessive moisture in the soil afterwards brought on blight. The strong plants in well-manured homestead lands were as a rule, able to resist the disease; but among the backward plants and those in weak soil it committed serious mischief. Fortunately, however, the increase in the Government price from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per seer saved the cultivators from an equally heavy loss as that of the preceding year. The following statement shows the estimated and actual outturn and the amounts paid to the cultivators in each of the three last years:—

Season.	Estimated produce.	Actual outturn.	PAYMENTS TO CULTIVATORS—				REMARKS.
			On account of opium.	On account of leaves.	On account of trash.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1892-93 ...	Mds. 43,638	Mds. s. ch. 40,338 36 12½	Rs. A. P. 60,67,783 15 9	Rs. A. P. 67,702 9 9	Rs. A. P. 6,637 9 2	Rs. A. P. 81,42,144 2 8	Approximate amounts calculated on 84,000 maunds: damdetta leaves on 8,000 maunds, and trash on 17,000 maunds.
1893-94 ...	33,600	30,115 32 12½	62,00,015 15 6	70,947 3 10	6,076 15 3	62,41,038 2 7	
1894-95 ...	35,281	30,134 14 5½	61,90,000 0 0	66,000 0 0	6,375 0 0	62,22,375 0 0	

* Gross produce ascertained at weighments.

45. For indigo the year was an exceptionally good one. There was rain in all the northern (indigo) districts in February, rather over normal, which gave strong moisture for the sowings. Subsequently the monsoon broke favourably and brought the plant on well for the first cuttings, the bright days of sunshine (during the drought) securing good produce and colour. Later on, the heavy rain at the end of July and during August gave unusually good second cuttings, with a final result that the season was a record one. A statement showing the outturn and value of the crop during the past two years will be found in paragraph 80 of this report.

IV.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

46. The following statement compares the number of deaths and the death-rate per mille in the different districts during the last two calendar years:—

Statement showing the number of deaths and the death-rate per mille in the different districts during the years 1893 and 1894.

DISTRICT.	Population.	NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM—										RATE PER MILLE.	
		Cholera.		Fever.		Small-pox.		Other causes.		Total.		1893 (Column 2 and 11).	1894 (Column 2 and 12).
		1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Patna	1,769,004	1,088	6,068	34,201	52,643	400	162	13,315	17,080	40,007	76,801	27.7	42.9
Gaya	2,134,331	075	16,351	44,424	71,702	1,537	414	9,287	12,500	55,923	101,096	26.1	47.2
Shahabad	2,003,377	1,964	19,484	55,023	78,020	271	161	9,248	11,003	65,406	100,577	32.1	53.1
Saran (a)	2,497,477	241	9,788	31,120	54,605	61	25	27,600	42,877	57,037	107,235	23.4	43.4
Champaran	1,859,405	6	15,344	34,872	48,920	60	7	11,852	14,112	46,708	80,383	25.1	43.2
Muzaffarpur	2,711,445	408	14,017	67,241	90,330	37	77	13,088	15,567	80,834	110,901	25.8	44.2
Darbhanga	2,501,055	572	13,284	61,336	88,939	28	30	10,002	11,508	72,638	108,761	25.8	38.8
Total	15,811,014	4,853	94,194	327,329	481,158	2,403	876	94,026	120,716	429,443	702,934	27.1	44.4

(a) The figures for 1893 are for the calendar year, and do not tally with those shown in previous year's report, which were for the official year 1893-94.

There was a very heavy increase in mortality throughout the Division. In fact the past year has been the most unhealthy on record. It almost seems as if nature had endeavoured to compensate itself for the unusual healthiness of the year immediately preceding. The chief features were the appalling ravages from fever and cholera, the latter of which was comparatively innocuous during the previous year, and the general immunity from small-pox.

47. It is deserving of notice that the increase in general mortality has been about equally shared by the South Gangetic and by the North Gangetic districts, the average increase being 60 per cent. in the former as compared with 61 per cent. in the latter. This points to climatic causes, rather than physical features, being the chief factor in bringing about the late widespread mortality. We hear a great deal now-a-days about intercepted drainage and the country being water-logged, and this is often advanced as the chief reason to account for epidemics of fever, &c. This is to a certain extent sound enough, but it is not the whole truth; and it is not fair that our roads and railways should be called upon to bear more than their proper share of blame. The Collector of Saran, I observe, gives this, viz. the deterioration of drainage, as the chief reason of the large increase of fever in his district. But this physical cause equally existed in the preceding year, when Saran was the healthiest district in Bihar. Take again Gaya. It is certainly not a "water-logged" district. Yet the mortality there from fever was during the past year considerably heavier than in Saran. The fact is that the state of the public health from year to year depends upon the "seasonableness" or otherwise of the weather in a far greater degree than upon any local causes. If the rains are delayed, there is inevitably an epidemic of cholera; if they are prolonged, fever takes its place. During the past year both conditions obtained. First the prolonged drought from October 1893 until June 1894, culminating in a month of unusual heat, produced a state of things exceptionally favourable to the spread of cholera. Next the copiousness of the rainfall and the abnormal prolongation of the rains into November intensified the annual ravages of malaria to a degree hitherto unknown in Bihar.

48. *Patna.*—The causes above-mentioned led to the general increase in the death-rate. The sanitary condition of the city of Patna is still as unsatisfactory as ever. The drainage scheme has, it is true, been carried out; but this, in the absence of any means of flushing the new drains, accentuates rather than mitigates the existing evils. The question of forming a fund for the carrying out of a water-works scheme is now occupying the attention of the Municipal Commissioners, and I trust that some definite steps will shortly be taken to accomplish this object. The Civil Surgeon remarks that the health of the town of Barh is steadily deteriorating owing to the secession of the river Ganges and the formation of an insalubrious chur opposite the town.

49. *Gaya.*—Cholera seems to have been first imported in February by persons returning from the Kumbh mela at Allahabad, but it did not break

out in an epidemic form until after the Deokund *mêla* in the west of the district. The unusual drought and heat which followed, seconded by long and trying breaks in the rains, gave the disease full play from the end of April until September, the greatest mortality occurring in July and August. The disease was imported into the Gaya jail in July by an under-trial prisoner, and experiments carried out there by the Civil Surgeon, Surgeon-Major Macrae, showed that it was undoubtedly spread by the agency of flies. These experiments, and the results of inoculation of a number of the prisoners against cholera by Professor Haffkine, formed the subject of special reports to Government and of articles in the *Indian Medical Gazette*. The Collector speaks with approbation of the efforts made by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Surgeon-Captain Deare, to encourage vaccination, and gives figures to show that in the municipalities where vaccination is compulsory the number of operations exceeded the number of births. Regarding the high mortality from fever, Mr. Macpherson observes that the disease was equally prevalent in the rest of the district as in the canal-irrigated tracts, the excessive rainfall having equalised the conditions throughout the district. The death-rate from this cause was heaviest from July to November, inclusive, the prolongation of the rains enabling it to retain its foothold until late in the latter month.

50. *Shahabad*.—This was, as in the previous year, the most unhealthy of all the districts in the Division. The first appearance of cholera is here again traced to the Kumbh *mêla* at Allahabad. It first broke out in the Sadar subdivision, and then in a village near to Sasaram, and during the heat of May and June in an epidemic form throughout the district. Everything was done by the local officers and District and Local Boards that could be done in the way of affording medical aid, disinfecting, and introducing sanitary reforms, but with little visible effect. The disease tenaciously held its ground, as in Gaya, until September, committing greater ravages than in any other district in the Division. It is at first sight disappointing to find that in the town of Arrah, notwithstanding the introduction of a filtered water-supply, there was an unusually severe outbreak. This is explained by the fact that, owing to the use of coarse sand in the filter-beds, the water for the first few months was much discoloured, and the people on this account objected to take it. This, however, was subsequently remedied, and the purity of the water is now undisputed. The Collector adds that enquiries showed that in parts of the town where the people overcame their prejudices and used the filtered water, cholera was less prevalent than elsewhere. On the subject of the prevalence of cholera throughout the district, the Civil Surgeon remarks as follows:—

“There can be no doubt that the great spread of cholera was due in great part to the defective water-supply of the district and from the pollution of drinking water. The corpses of those who die from cholera are very often not properly burnt and in many instances are thrown into rivers and irrigation reservoirs without any attempt at cremation whatever. Such occurrences were brought to my notice at Dehri, and were by me reported to the Magistrate, with a request that such practices should, if possible, be put a stop to.”

The heavy mortality from fever is ascribed to the same causes as in Gaya and elsewhere, viz., the unusual character of the season. The improvement in vaccination operations is also favourably noticed by the Collector.

51. *Saran* would appear to have suffered less in proportion to population, both from cholera and fever, than most of the other districts. At the same time I note that there is an inordinately large mortality shown under the head of “other causes,” and I doubt very much if the statistics have been prepared on the same basis as elsewhere. The contrast is certainly very striking and needs explanation, and I am inviting the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner to the matter.

52. *Champaran*.—The year was as abnormally unhealthy as elsewhere. Such preventive measures as were possible were taken, and six Civil Hospital Assistants were specially employed on cholera duty. The four new dispensaries which are being opened in the north of the district will supply a long-felt want.

53. *Muzaffarpur*.—Here again cholera is thought to have been imported originally from the Kumbh *mêla* in February. It established itself as an

epidemic during the intensity of the heat in May and June, and did not abate until the rains had well set in. Regarding the mortality from fever, which was heavier here than in any other district, the Collector says that the long spell of dry weather caused the lands which are ordinarily covered with water to become exposed to the sun's rays, and thus helped to increase malarial vapours. Possibly also the heavy floods of the preceding year had something to do with this.

54. *Darbhanga*.—The story is the same as in Muzaffarpur, the mortality from fever being second only to that in the sister district. Here, as there and elsewhere, whatever could be done to afford aid was done, but without apparent avail. Only with change of season was the grip of either disease, cholera or fever, relaxed. From this district, as from all the other three North Gangetic districts, small-pox was practically absent.

55. The following table gives the number of deaths and the death-rate in the different municipalities. The most healthy municipalities were Dinapore and Chapra, as in the previous year, and the most unhealthy Jagdispur and Buxar:—

Statement showing the total number of deaths and the death-rate in the different municipalities during the years 1893 and 1894.

D. DISTRICT.	Town.	Population.	DEATHS REGISTERED.				BIRTHS REGISTERED.			
					Rate per mille.				Rate per mille.	
			1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Patna	Patna	104,942	5,231	6,230	31.71	37.8	4,371	3,609	26.5	24.24
	Barh	12,303	381	487	30.91	39.54	574	374	30.25	30.25
	Bihar	47,773	1,360	2,036	28.48	42.66	1,809	2,008	37.0	43.13
	Dinapore	41,419	881	1,081	10.38	26.33	841	828	18.93	18.64
Gaya	Gaya	60,383	3,205	4,415	30.8	54.0	2,207	1,943	28.0	34.1
	Tikori	11,532	260	482	23.3	41.8	235	210	20.3	18.7
	Jadunagar	9,851	231	431	23.4	43.7	302	301	35.7	30.5
	Arrah	46,387	1,331	2,335	29.13	50.33	1,444	1,280	31.13	26.51
Shahabad	Jadispore	12,168	604	932	45.23	74.75	305	327	30.27	26.33
	Dumraon	18,380	642	1,161	34.9	63.11	688	635	31.4	34.0
	Buxar	13,871	737	1,031	53.1	74.39	450	440	33.4	31.73
	Bhabhua	9,975	345	414	30.59	41.51	293	231	29.37	23.16
Saran	Sasaram	22,037	557	1,076	41.30	47.65	853	910	37.08	40.10
	Chapra	57,368	1,000	1,378	17.2	23.2	1,322	960	33.1	16.8
	Revelganj	13,473	355	702	26.3	52.5	423	403	31.3	34.3
	Siwan	17,700	376	645	21.2	36.4	470	375	20.5	21.1
Champanan	Motihari	13,108	365	589	27.84	44.93	359	313	27.31	23.67
	Bettiah	22,780	619	1,080	27.18	47.41	671	648	29.45	30.3
	Muzaffarpur	49,102	2,647	2,151	51.77	43.74	1,095	1,405	33.25	29.78
	Hajipur	21,487	373	1,185	17.35	55.14	841	827	39.13	38.48
Muzaffarpur	Lalgang	12,408	1,077	753	86.2	60.67	405	452	37.22	36.18
	Sitamarhi	8,716	741	285	85.02	32.7	266	268	30.52	30.75
	Darbhanga	73,429	2,394	2,677	32.6	36.1	2,220	2,226	30.3	30.3
	Madhubani	17,625	541	668	30.6	38.1	585	1,097	33.3	62.6
Darbhanga	Roshera	10,835	419	633	38.6	58.6	465	422	43.0	38.7
	Total	613,677	20,870	33,003	33.04	43.05	24,063	23,044	39.5	36.3

56. It will be remembered that the statistics in municipalities are collected by the municipal police and those for the rural areas from the reports of the chaukidars. The similarity in total results speaks much for the general improvement that has taken place of late years in this department of the work of the rural police.

V.—MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

57. As remarked last year, the material condition of the people in an agricultural country like Bihar depends from year to year upon the results of the harvests. In section 3 of this report it has been noticed that during the year under report the conditions in respect to weather and the outturn of the *bhadoi* and *rabi* crops varied considerably in the districts to the north and in those to the south of the Ganges. The rice crop, which is the chief crop of the year, was everywhere a good one; but while in the North Gangetic districts the *bhadoi* and *rabi* may be described as average crops, in the South Gangetic districts they were decidedly below the average, and in certain areas so much below it as almost to rank as failures. Although, therefore, the people were everywhere saved, by the good rice crop, from anything approaching want, their prosperity beyond this point varied considerably in degree between one district and another. I will therefore take the seven districts of the Division separately, noticing the condition of the people in each as described by the District Officers.

58. *Patna*.—The Officiating Collector, Mr. Inglis, observes that although the *bhadoi* crop suffered from excessive rain, the other two crops,* especially the rice, were good, and the general condition of the people was prosperous; and he adduces as proof of this the numerous weddings during the late marriage season and the fact that no applications were made for advances under the Land Improvement or Agricultural Loans Acts, although notices inviting them were duly published. Regarding the state of the lower orders in the City of Patna and its immediate neighbourhood, Mr. Inglis remarks as follows:—

“In the Patna City the demand for labour is sufficient, and cases of acute poverty are rarely met with among the labouring classes.

“Many of their boys find work in the opium factory. They are, moreover, frugal to a degree, choosing, it is said, to eat only one meal of suttoo in the middle of the day, in order to be able to invest their savings in jewels and ornaments. A large cultivating class live on the outskirts of the city and make a comfortable living by raising garden produce, including large quantities of potatoes, onions, garlic, cauliflowers, and other vegetables, much of which are exported to Calcutta and other parts of Lower and Western Bengal. This class are generally well-to-do, as this has little fear of loss either from drought or inundation.”

59. *Gaya*.—The Collector, Mr. D. J. Macpherson, writes—“The prosperity of the mass of the people generally depends on the character of the harvests. The preceding year was on the whole a prosperous one, owing to the abundant yield of the principal harvest of the year, the winter rice. This was followed, however, by a disappointing *rabi* harvest (1893-94) and one particularly disastrous to the most industrious class in the community, on account of the failure of the poppy crop. Succeeding this, again, came a poor *bhadoi* harvest (1894), but the principal crop of the year, the winter rice, was fully up to the average; and although the subsequent *rabi* harvest (1894-95) has again been a very disappointing one, the condition of the people may, on the whole, be described as fairly prosperous and as at least up to the normal. A pretty good indication of this is the fact that marriages have been celebrated on quite as good a scale as usual.”

60. *Shahabad*.—Mr. C. R. Marindin, after reviewing the state of the different crops and noticing the fact that trade, especially in food-grains, has been heavily against the district, that mahajans have shown some backwardness in lending money on mortgages of raiyats' holdings, and that the marriage season has been slacker than usual, goes on to say.—“It would appear from these indications that the purchasing power of the district was at a low ebb, and that the cultivators could not afford to spend so much money on comforts, and that while a good deal of money went out of the district to bring in food-grains, very little came in, and that the raiyats made very little money from the paying crops, such as linseed, mustard and sugarcane, on which their financial condition so much depends. It would also appear from the action of the mahajans that the raiyat's credit and the value of land were to some extent depreciated. There can be little doubt, I think, that the year has been one of difficulty to the cultivating class, and that they have only been saved from a crisis by the excellence of the winter rice crop. It is probable, too, that, apart from the bad agricultural season, all descriptions of business were injuriously affected by the very serious epidemic of fever and cholera which visited the district and caused widespread sickness and mortality among all classes, and that much of the general depression should be attributed to this cause as well as to deficient crops.

“The condition of the petty proprietors in the district seems to be steadily deteriorating. Mr. Beachcroft, in whose subdivision of Sasaram as well as Bhabhua there are large numbers of petty zamindars, points out that the steady rise in prices, accompanied as it has been for many years by only a slight rise in rent, is gradually exterminating this class. ‘Marriage expenses,’ he says, ‘have in no way decreased, and foreclosure on mortgages for money advanced at exorbitant rates of interest are tending to bring about the same result.’

“These remarks are very true. Everything points to the gradual disappearance of the old class of petty zamindar and the transfer of their estates

to the mahajans or their absorption in the properties of the larger proprietors. That they will die hard, however, and cling to the land as long as possible, there is no doubt, and the records of the registration office show that they will mortgage their properties up to the hilt rather than sell any portion of them. Legislation on the lines recently proposed by Mr. Mohen Mohan Roy, curtailing the amount of interest on loans that can be decreed by the Courts, seems to offer them some chance of salvation, but I am afraid that unless their habit of indebtedness, and especially the custom of spending money extravagantly upon marriage ceremonies, can be reformed, it will be a very slender chance, and that for many of them reforms will have come too late."

Mr. Marindin adds that the wages of labour and the price of food-grains remaining much the same as last year, the condition of the labouring classes may be taken as normal.

61. *Saran*.—The Collector, Mr. F. A. Slack, observes: "The material condition of the people as compared with that of last year remained unchanged.

"The heavy rice crop of the preceding year saved the people from experiencing hardship owing to the poor *rabi* crop of 1893-94 and the partial loss of the maize crop during the year under report. Though the price of coarse rice was at one time very close to the famine-warning rate noted by Sir W. Hunter in the Statistical Gazetteer of this district, yet so much has the condition of the people changed for the better since that work was written that no anxiety was experienced with regard to any tract.

"The labouring classes had ample work in agricultural operations, and the numerous indigo factories, the year being a good one, to a great extent supplied them with labour."

* * * * *

"The Postal Department took from the treasury the following amounts in the last two years, and used the sums in discharging money orders received:—

	Rs.
April 1893 to March 1894	13,33,450
April 1894 to March 1895	16,42,900

"The people on the whole seemed for Bihar fairly well off during the year under report, but very far removed from the extremely prosperous condition of the peasantry in Eastern Bengal."

As I have often before remarked, the distinguishing economic feature of the Saran district, of all other districts in Bihar, is the extent to which the balance of trade is annually against it. The large remittances through the post office noticed by Mr. Slack are not payments for exports, but they represent a vast number of small remittances to their homes by persons in service in the army, as *darwans* in Calcutta, and in other more or less menial appointments in Lower Bengal and elsewhere. It is to the money brought into the district in this way, as well as to the large payments by Government to the opium cultivators and the very considerable local outlay by the numerous indigo factories, that the lower classes in Saran owe their safety from being in a chronic state of want. Mr. Slack also remarks on the large number of petty cultivators and able-bodied labourers who, as is the custom throughout North Bihar, migrate annually to the eastern districts after the rains in search of work. Roughly speaking, Mr. Slack thinks that these persons yearly bring back to their homes something like 30 lakhs of rupees. The amount thus brought into the district is, I know, very considerable, but I can scarcely believe that it can be so large as this.

62. *Champanan*.—Mr. E. G. Colvin, the Acting Collector, writes: "The material condition of the people on the whole was satisfactory. The good outturn of the successive crops, *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi*, secured the people generally against deeper indebtedness, and caused a noticeable improvement in their condition at the close of the year, in spite of the suffering caused almost throughout the district by the severe cholera epidemic."

63. *Muzaffarpur*.—The Collector, Mr. Hare, observes as follows:—"The material condition of the people in this district is principally dependent upon the result of the harvests. These, as noticed in the preceding section of 'Weather and crops,' have been, taking one crop with another, favourable. On the whole the district is in a much better condition than what it was at the end of

the year 1893-94. As the Subdivisional Officer of Sitamarhi reports, the large crowds which flocked to Sitamarhi *mêla* this year are a fair indication that the condition of the people is good, and they appear for the most part to be prosperous and contented. The fact that there was no illness or epidemic among such crowds of people also points to their general prosperity and healthy state. I agree with the remarks of the Subdivisional Officer. The people, so far as I have seen, seem well fed and in good condition.

"Collections of cesses have not, however, been very good, and I have heard some complaints of difficulty in collecting rents, though not universally. The fact is that the people are largely indebted, and a good season is very much discounted by the payments which have to be made to mahajans on account of former loans. Where the mahajans are first in the field, the rent collections are often not much more satisfactory in a good year than in a bad year."

64. *Darbhangā*.—Mr. Tute, the Officiating Collector, writes: "It follows that the condition of the people was on the whole better because they enjoyed better crops and were better fed than last year.

"The year was equally favourable for the landless labouring classes. They found sufficient work under the agriculturists, who being high-caste people (Brahmins, Rajputs, Kaisths, &c.), as a rule, do not cultivate their own lands, and require their services for the purpose. Ample work was also available for them on the railways and in the indigo factories.

"I agree with Mr. Williams that in spite of the pressure on the new land, and the fact that in *Darbhangā* the population has almost doubled itself in the last 20 years, there is no doubt that the people generally are much better off, and that, judging from their appearances, they as a rule seem in easier circumstances than they were 20 years ago. I have not seen anything like distress or poverty during my travels, and I consider the people in any ordinary year to be fairly well off, and the half-starved peasantry that I knew in these parts some 20 or 22 years ago has its condition very sensibly improved. This year the people were exceptionally prosperous."

65. On the whole it may be said that in the northern districts the year has been, for the mass of the people, a more than usually prosperous one; in Patna and the greater part of Gaya, it has been at least up to the average; while in Shahabad, especially to the south and west, the people have not been so well off as usual. Saran seems, on the whole, both as regards harvests and health, to have come off best, and Shahabad worst. It will be remembered that this was also the case in the preceding year.

VI.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

66. The following table shows the number of emigrants registered during the last two years in the several districts of this Division :—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	For Colonies.		Tea Districts.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5
Patna ...	740	955	57	.....
Gaya ...	.....	.....	300	409
Shahabad ...	1,072	1,917	806	820
Saran ...	209	417	.....	.....
Champaran ...	.....	163	.....	.....
Muzaffarpur ...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darbhangā ...	132	127	.....	.....
Total ...	2,153	3,579	1,163	1,229

There was a considerable increase in emigration to the Colonies. It was most marked in Shahabad, and is attributed to a greater demand from Natal and British Guiana than in the previous year. The increase in Saran is chiefly due to a greater influx of emigrants from the North-West Provinces and Nepal, of whom the number registered in this district was 239 against 92 only in the previous year.

67. As remarked in my last year's report, the number of registered emigrants for the tea districts does not represent the number of actual emigrants, for many persons go there under the "free emigration" system. Between 700 and 800 coolies are reported to have emigrated under this system from the district of Shahabad alone; but there is no means, as the Collector observes, of ascertaining the correct figures. There is also a system of free emigration from the Jagdispur estates, belonging to Messrs. Mylne and Company, to the grant in Burma belonging to these gentlemen, a notice of which will be found in paragraph 465 of this report.

68. The classes that principally emigrate to the Colonies are Babhans, Chamars, Dusadhs, Kahars, Kurnis, Koeris, Rajputs and Muhammadans. The Collector of Shahabad remarks:—"The increase in colonial emigration noticed above, and the free emigration which goes on among the cultivating classes, is evidence of the increasing difficulty which cultivators experience in getting enough land for their wants."

69. The Collector of Muzaffarpur, from which district there was no registered emigration during the last two years, writes:—"There is a considerable movement of the people who go out to seek work in the districts to the east and in Calcutta and elsewhere. * * * They return again as soon as they have earned a sufficient sum to carry on their own cultivation. It is difficult to estimate the extent of this movement, but no less than Rs. 10,25,339-12-2 are sent in money orders to this district, and a large part of this is the proceeds of such labour."

70. The movement described by Mr. Hare is common to all of the districts of the Division, especially to those lying to the north of the Ganges, as has already been noticed in former reports.

71. There is practically no immigration into the Division. Mr. Tute writes:—"Of the immigrants into the district (Darbhanga), Marwaris and Bengalis form the most noticeable features. The former as a rule take to trade and the latter to service. The people of the district are peculiarly conservative and generally averse to trading speculations."

72. Two cases of abuse in connection with free emigration came to light during the year, in which the offenders were brought to justice. In one case, which occurred in the Patna district, a woman was persuaded to enter into a dépôt at Mithapore, and was there kept for three days, besides being criminally assaulted. She managed to escape, and laid her complaint, with the result that the offender (the recruiter) was convicted and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment under sections 343 and 354, Indian Penal Code, and Rs. 10 fine. In the other case, which occurred in Shahabad, a woman was brought down from Sasaram on pretence of employment by a free recruiter. When she reached Arrah she refused to go to the dépôt, and on the recruiter's endeavouring to take her there forcibly, she appealed for aid to a constable, with the result that the recruiter was prosecuted and sentenced under section 341 to a month's imprisonment, which, however, was reduced on appeal to a fine of Rs. 5.

73. The coolie dépôts were duly inspected by the Magistrates and other inspecting officers, and defects found were promptly removed. There was no outbreak of disease except in Shahabad, where in a sub-dépôt close to Arrah four coolies were attacked with cholera, of whom two died.

VII.—PRICES OF FOOD AND LABOUR.

74. I find from an examination of the prices of the three principal food-grains at the principal marts during the last fortnight of each of the two last years that common rice runs on the average $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee cheaper than last year, while gram is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers dearer and wheat is about the same.

All three articles are also cheaper now than they were two and three years ago. I also find, as was noticed to be the case last year, that the prices of rice in most of the outlying marts, such as Bihar in Patna, Nawada and Aurangabad in Gaya, and Madhubani in Darbhanga, rule somewhat lower than at the nearest grain centres on the railway, thus indicating the sufficiency of the local supplies in the interior. This is not, however, the case at Bhabhua or Sasaram in the Shahabad district, where the rates for both rice and makai are at present somewhat higher than at the district head-quarters. The explanation seems to be that the effects of the excessive rain in July and August were particularly felt in the southern and western portions of the Shahabad district, and affected the outturn of the *bhadoi* and of the late *rabi* crop there more than elsewhere. This remark would equally apply to the subdivision of Buxar, but the prices there are kept on a better level by the fact of its being both on the river Ganges as well as on the line of rail.

75. The Collector of Saran has sent me a chart, which I reproduce below, showing the rise and fall in the prices of common rice and maize during the different months of the past and previous years. It may be taken as showing approximately the state of the market from month to month in the principal trade centres of Bihar. It will be seen from this chart that maize ruled higher almost throughout the year than it did in 1893-94, while in August, owing no doubt to the phenomenal weather in July and August mentioned in paragraph 40 of this report, rice ran up to the price noted in the Gazette as the famine warning. Mr. Slack reports, however, that this rise caused no apprehension whatever among the people. The general improvement in their resources of late years enables them to bear a temporary tightening of the market without showing the marked anxiety of former days. The extension of the railway has also, no doubt, much to do with maintaining public confidence in this respect.

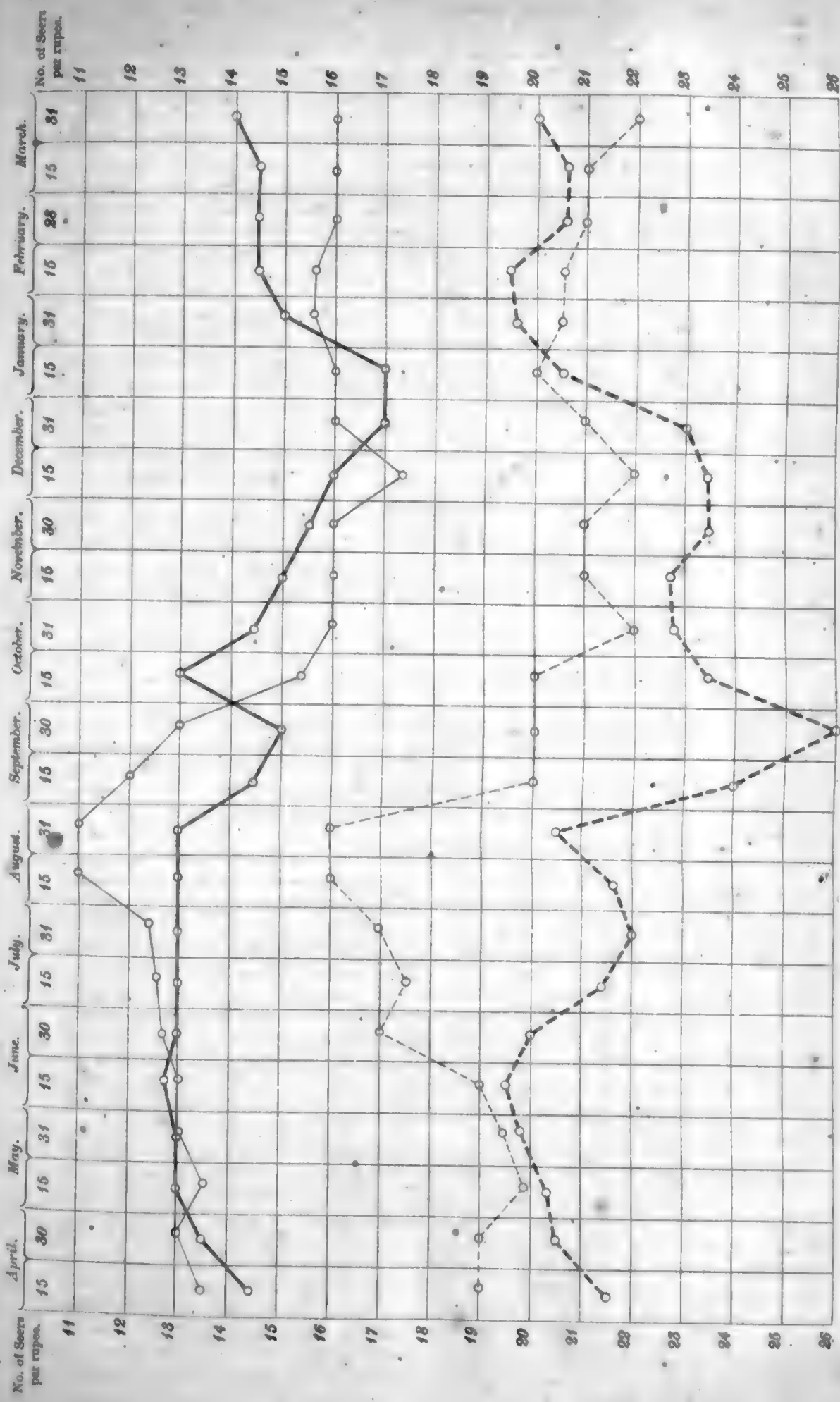
Prices of labour.

76. There has been but little variation in the rates paid for labour during the last three years.

77. *Skilled labour.*—But there is, no doubt, a tendency for skilled labour, in towns, to command a somewhat higher price than formerly. I find that in my report for 1891-92, three years ago, I noticed this, and I observe from the figures now given by some of the Collectors that among masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths the daily wage still shows the same upward tendency. The rise, no doubt, is small and gradual, $\frac{1}{4}$ anna to $\frac{1}{2}$ anna (per diem) in three or four years, but it is observable all the same. This however is only what might be expected from a combination of circumstances. There is an ever-increasing demand, with our improved roads, for vehicles of a better description than formerly; the use of machinery for soorkee mills, ice machines, and in indigo factories is everywhere coming into use, and hands are required to look after it; while at every district head-quarters and at those subdivisions which have been opened out by the railway, the number of well-to-do residents is steadily increasing, and new houses of more or less architectural pretensions are quickly springing up. There is also a general and marked advance in the standard of domestic comfort among natives of the better class, and cabinet-makers are in greater request than formerly. Add to all this the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee, and the wonder is that the price of skilled labour has increased so slowly as it has done.

78. *Unskilled labour.*—The wages of unskilled labour, on the other hand, maintain from year to year much the same level, their measure usually being the minimum amount required to afford means of subsistence. As noticed before, outside of the towns, labour is usually paid in grain. Even skilled labour, that of the village artizan, is paid wholly or partly in kind, while the field labourer gets the whole of his wage—usually 3 seers a day for a man, $2\frac{1}{2}$ for a woman, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ for a non-adult—in one or other of the inferior kinds of grain, such as millets or coarse unhusked rice. As before remarked, this system is particularly suited to an agricultural country like Bihar, and has the advantage of not being affected by any rise or fall in the price of food-grains. Whatever the fluctuations in the price for these in the market, the labourer's wage remains the same.

Prices of Common Rice and Maize at Chapra.



Common Rice, 1893-94 ———
 Do 1894-95 ———
 Maize 1893-94 - - - - -
 Do 1894-95 - - - - -

VIII.—MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

79. Besides opium and other exciseable articles, indigo and saltpetre are the principal manufactures of this division.

80. *Indigo*.—Indigo is grown in the North Gangetic districts, viz. Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga. The following table compares the total outturn and its estimated value during the last two years:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Outturn in maunds.	Value.	Outturn in maunds.	Value.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.
Saran	6,941	19,01,450	14,105	25,26,250
Champaran	8,841	25,26,401	26,180	65,45,000
Muzaffarpur	8,921	25,97,005	25,065	62,66,250
Darbhangha	7,513	19,45,146	19,880	49,57,500
Total	32,216	89,70,002	85,180	2,02,95,000

It will be seen that the outturn of indigo was specially good during the year. There was a fall in average price from Rs. 280 to Rs. 238 per maund, but the enormous increase in outturn much more than counterbalanced this. Indeed, it is a matter for congratulation that prices kept up as they did. I notice that in the last year (1892) when there was an unusually large outturn (maunds 83,600), prices fell to Rs. 181 per maund.

81. The Jagdispur concern in Shahabad manufactured 244 maunds of indigo of the value of Rs. 55,275 during the year.

82. *Saltpetre*.—Saltpetre is principally manufactured in the North Gangetic districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga. The manufacture is under the control of the Northern India Salt Department.

83. The quantity produced in each of the above districts is given below:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	SALTPETRE.		SALT.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Saran	41,629	49,836	5,153	5,670
Champaran	72,299	39,901	4,231	3,405
Muzaffarpur	95,711	70,329	5,061	5,611
Darbhangha	49,071	51,794	2,131	2,178
Total	2,58,710	2,11,860	16,576	16,864

84. No explanation of the decrease has been furnished by the Collectors of Champaran and Muzaffarpur. The Collector of Darbhanga states that the increase in his district under the head of saltpetre is explained by the Salt Superintendent to be due to the very favourable weather experienced before and after the rains, and to the greater activity displayed by refiners in consequence of exceptionally high prices. A similar explanation is given for the increase in Saran.

85. The manufacture of saltpetre is only carried on to a small extent in Gaya, where there are but three refineries. The quantity manufactured in these refineries was 4,173 maunds against 3,219 maunds in the preceding year.

86. In Shahaad there are some saltpetre refineries in the Bhabua subdivision, the outturn of which during the year under report was 4,000 maunds against 3,700 maunds in the previous year, the increase being due to favourable weather.

87. *Other manufactures.*—In last year's report I gave an account of the following principal manufactures of this Division, viz., tobacco-curing, sugar-refining, durries and blankets, brassware, bell-metal and stoneware, paper, lac and oil. In the present report, in order to avoid repetition, I will take the Division district by district, and for this purpose I cannot do better than to give the following extracts from the reports of the different Collectors:—

88. *Patna.*—Mr. Inglis writes as follows:—“The local industries carried on in the Patna City, which deserve mention, are carpet, brass utensils, lac ornaments, bangles tiklis, wooden toys, wooden combs, tin foil, silver foil, silver and gold thread, rough pottery, ornaments, palanquins and ekkas. Native embroidery is also manufactured in the city to the value of Rs. 28,000 a year.

“Soap is manufactured in Bihar. During the year under report 1,150 maunds of soap were manufactured to the value of Rs. 6,900. It is consumed locally and exported to Patna.

“Tasar or silk cloth is manufactured to a limited extent within the jurisdiction of the Futwa thana in the Barh subdivision. The business is rapidly declining, although 12 or 14 years back a large trade was carried on with Calcutta and the North-Western Provinces, and the dealers did a very lucrative business. The decline of the industry is said to be due to the competition with imported machine-made articles.

“Chamali oil of the best quality is manufactured at Barh, but it has no commercial value. Only an insignificant quantity is exported.”

89. *Gaya.*—Of the different manufactures in Gaya, Mr. D. J. Macpherson gives the following interesting account:—

“The chief industries of the district of Gaya, besides the manufacture of exciseable articles, are lac, sugar-refining, tobacco-curing, cotton cloth, tasar silk, blankets, carpets, brassware, saltpetre, stoneware and mica.

“The lac industry was in a very prosperous condition during the year. There were 23 factories at work, which turned out 48,200 maunds of shell-lac valued at Rs. 29,40,200 as against 19 factories with an outturn of 15,500 maunds valued at Rs. 8,83,500 in the preceding year. The price rose to about Rs. 61 per maund from Rs. 57 in 1893 and Rs. 45 in 1892. The factories are all situated in and near Imanganj in the south of the district, bordering on the jungles of Chota Nagpur.

“Sugar-refining is a gradually declining industry, and is now carried on only on a small scale, not even sufficient for local consumption. The production of crude sugar is, however, an important industry, and large quantities of this article are exported to Bombay and up-country, but the traffic statistics show a large falling off during the year under report as compared with the two preceding years, which must be due to good produce elsewhere, as the crop in Gaya was on the whole about as good as last year.

“Tobacco-curing forms an important industry in this district, although the leaf itself has all to be imported, chiefly from Tirhut. The principal centres of manufacture are Gaya, Gurna, and Paibigha, the brand manufactured in the last-named place being held in much esteem by native connoisseurs all over India. I have seen in the town of Muzaffarpur in the heart of the district, from which the leaf mostly comes, a signboard over a shop, advertising ‘Real Gaya tobacco.’ The export of tobacco from the district by rail and canal was about the same as last year; and, although the importation of the raw material was much less, a large quantity has been brought in since the close of the year.

“The weaving by hand of coarse cotton cloths is still carried on to some extent, as the lower classes prefer it to imported machine-made stuff on account of its greater durability, particularly for winter clothing. The weavers have, however, largely taken to using machine-spun yarn; but the industry is in a languishing condition on account of the cheapness of imported piece-goods.

“Tasar silk is woven to some extent at Buniyadganj near Gaya, at Kadirganj near Nawada, and at Daudnagar in Aurangabad, the cocoons being got from

Cheta Nagpur. The quality is poor, but pilgrims like to take some away with them. The industry is not in a flourishing condition, as it is unable to stand the competition of machine-made stuff.

"Blankets are manufactured in large quantities in this district, chiefly at Rampur and Bhadeya in the Sadar subdivision and at Amba and Chilki in Aurangabad. The industry is a thriving one, and there is a large export to Chatra in Hazaribagh and to Bengal, in addition to the local consumption. The manufacture is, however, carried on by a poor class of people, the Gareries or shepherds, who get advances from middlemen.

"Carpets and rugs of superior quality are made at Obra and Daudnagar in the Aurangabad subdivision, and command good prices, though the weavers are poor people. The industry did not thrive so well as usual during the year under report.

"Brassware and bell-metal continue to be extensively manufactured in the district, chiefly at Daudnagar and Nabinagar in Aurangabad, and Manpur near Gaya. About one-fourth is believed to be exported. Figures of Hindu deities in brass, manufactured in Gaya, are taken away in considerable quantities by pilgrims.

"Stoneware of superior durability is manufactured at the Pathalkatti hill, about 18 miles north-east of Gaya, by a colony of stone-cutters whose ancestors were brought into the district from Jaipur in Rajputana to build the Vishnupad Temple in Gaya. Though not an important industry, the articles manufactured are taken by pilgrims to all parts of India, and seem much prized."

90. *Shahabad*.—Mr. Marindin also gives a full account of the industries in his district as follows:—

"The chief manufactures of the district are sugar, paper, blanket, grind-stones, pottery, brass work and country cloth.

"The manufacture of sugar is confined to the villages of Hariharganj, Nasriganj, Dumraon, Dubauli, Mahuar, Chandanpura, Nai Bazar, and Jagdispur, situated in Sasaram, Buxar, and the Arrah subdivisions.

"The total outturn of sugar during the year was 31,850 maunds against 50,310 maunds of the preceding year. The decrease is due to a partial failure of the sugarcane. The sugar refineries in Nasriganj have yielded a large profit to the refineries. It is being exported in large quantities to distant parts of the country. The value is estimated at Rs. 1,57,000 against Rs. 1,54,500 in the previous year.

"Paper was at one time made in large quantities in Hariharganj. This industry has now almost died away, as the local product cannot compete with the paper of Serampore mill. The paper made here is called Basha paper, and is exported to Benares and North-Western Provinces, and is used largely by bankers on account of its durability.

"Carpets are manufactured in the Bhabhua and Sasaram subdivisions. The industry is reported to be thriving. The carpets made at Sasaram are of superior quality and command a good sale. They are made both of cotton and wool.

"The manufacture of coarse country cloth is on the decline, due to the competition of English piece-goods. Country cloth is, however, still preferred, by those who can afford to buy it, for its durability and warmth in the cold season.

"Country blankets are woven by the shepherd caste, those made in Bhabhua being of superior texture. Wooden vessels and toys made in Sasaram and Arrah are taken to large fairs held in the district, where they command good prices.

"Lacquered pottery made at Sasaram is chiefly bought by Europeans. It consists of ordinary earthen pots and vases of various shapes painted over with lac. This industry is confined to a few individuals, and though the trade is not extensive, the small cost of production and the high prices often successfully demanded leave a good margin of profit to the producers.

"Stone-mills are made in the Sasaram subdivision, the stone being taken from quarries in the Kymore hills. A large quantity is sent annually to Patna.

"Metalling for roads is also brought in large quantities from the quarries of the Kymore range. The Public Works Department has a line of tracks running from Dhandar quarry to Dehri, a distance of 7 miles.

"Brass, copper, and bell-metal are worked by Thatheris and Kaseras into various ornaments for the feet and arms. Brassware is generally brought from Mirzapur and Benares.

"Mustard and linseed continue to be pressed in the old-fashioned Koolhoos. The model machine invented in the Alipore Jail is so far only used for jail labour. The manufacture of vegetable oils is everywhere suffering much from the competition of mineral oil."

91. *Saran*.—Besides giving an account of the indigo and saltpetre industries and of the opium crop of the year, the particulars of which have been noticed elsewhere in this report, Mr. Slack merely states that the other principal manufactures in his district are utensils of bell-metal and Siwan pottery, unrefined sugar and castor-oil. No reliable statistics appear to be available, though as regards sugar the Collector states that the cultivation is steadily increasing, as the raiyats find that the plant is not injured by temporary floods, as is the case with maize which it replaces. The Siwan castor-oil mill, which was established in 1890 and is worked by steam-power under European supervision, is still at work, but the Company are reported to be unwilling to give any information as to the extent of their transactions.

92. *Champaran*.—The Officiating Collector reports that there are no handicrafts deserving special notice in his district, the only articles of manufacture worth mentioning, besides exciseable articles, indigo and saltpetre, being sugar, the outturn of which is roughly estimated at maunds 2,500, as in the preceding year.

93. *Musaffarpur*.—Cloth-weaving is still carried on by the Jolahas in the Hajipur subdivision. The cloth is coarse, but cheap and durable. Coarse blankets are also made, but inferior to those of Gaya and Shahabad. At Sursand, in the Sitamarhi subdivision, the manufacture of carpets is still carried on, but the industry is, it is believed, declining.

94. *Darbhanga*.—After noticing the results during the past year in regard to indigo and saltpetre, Mr. Tute writes:—

"The other manufactures carried on in this district are as follows:—

- (1) Tobacco-curing.
- (2) Sugar-refining.
- (3) Kukti cloth.

"Tobacco is manufactured after the European method at Poosa by Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Company. The factory turned out 746 maunds of manufactured tobacco against 530 maunds in the preceding year, and 1,628,347 cigars and cigarettes against 2,321,594 in the previous year. The decrease under the head of cigarettes and cigars is due to the manufacture of cigarettes having been discontinued during the year under review. It is reported that the industry is not a very paying one owing to shrinkage of the market.

"The manufacture of sugar is confined chiefly to the Madhubani subdivision. A refinery on the European method, opened since November 1893, noticed in the last year's report, is now in full working order with all the modern appliances of machinery. In course of my inspection of the refinery, I noticed that the sugar turned out was equal to any one could get in Calcutta, and the establishment of this factory should prove a great convenience to people living in Bihar, and also give a great incentive to the local sugar cultivation.

"The total quantity of sugar manufactured in the subdivision and its value are estimated at 44,096 maunds and Rs. 4,40,960 against 1,95,000 maunds and Rs. 19,50,000 in the preceding year. The falling off in the outturn is explained to be due to the dull state of the market. The figures are, however, considered unreliable. Fear of income-tax assessments probably prevents the dealers from giving accurate figures.

"The manufacture of kukti cloth is carried on to some extent in the Madhubani subdivision. It is made from a cotton of that name of a naturally brown colour, indigenous to the subdivision. The cloth very much resembles tassar silk both in colour and texture. The use of it is confined chiefly to the higher classes of people, especially Brahmans. The industry is, however, failing, owing to the competition of European piece-goods."

95. It will be observed from the above accounts of the manufactures in the different districts that native handicrafts have not found the same

* Nawab Wilayat Ali, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E.

residents,* seems to be that after the murder of Alamgir II and the fall of Delhi in 1759 A.D., the members of the Muhammadan nobility attached to the jagirs that had been given them in the Patna, districts, bringing in their train large numbers of artisans who settled down in the above three districts; to the north of the Ganges were still in an unsettled and only partially cultivated.

IX.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

97. The subjoined statement has been compiled from the statistics fur-

Rail-borne trade.

nished to the District Officers by the Railway authorities, in accordance with the instructions contained in Government order No. 20Cir., dated 16th April last. It shows the "up" and "down" import and export traffic in the 22 chief articles of trade, noted in the margin, of the several districts of this Division carried by the East Indian and Bengal and North-Western Rail-

ways during the year under review.

Statement showing the "up" and "down" import and export traffic of the several districts of the Patna Division carried by rail during the year ending 31st March 1895.

LIST OF ARTICLES.	IMPORTS		EXPORTS		IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<i>Paina.</i>				<i>Gaya.</i>			
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	1,12,511	3,21,351	1,07,001	31,511	534	18,544	1,00,444	1,43,000
2. Paddy	40,097	39,418	4,235	2,780	344	16	922	15,200
3. Wheat	1,01,543	11,390	5,173	5,053	50,595	1,679	142	3,444
4. Gram and pulses	2,07,504	78,708	97,603	1,06,977	1,27,591	60,315	48,537	11,792
5. Other food-grains	1,26,047	8,344	11,763	59,395	7,196	1,609	4,193	2,349
6. Jute, raw	431	813	83	1,747	90	17	...	...
7. Gunny-bags	6,839	63,734	10,046	10,480	4,422	9,943	1,517	2,600
8. Linseed	25,488	704	2,580	5,01,305	7	201	...	1,17,019
9. Mustard seed	6,440	1,780	1,400	41,898	51	339	48	6,085
10. Tea, Indian	90	56	0	0	8	3	...	...
11. Cotton, raw	13,958	408	976	1,080	3,348	179	107	56
12. Silk, raw	135	641	547	1,077	20	104	4	211
13. Sugar, refined	917	4,619	538	1,407	446	646	94	2
14. Do., unrefined	23,354	10,499	11,910	91,376	44,039	2,215	13,347	1,84,496
15. Tobacco, manufactured	1,490	116	363	1,881	35	90	160	6,918
16. Ditto, unmanufactured	23,943	12,639	1,53,553	43,551	30,759	14,543	2,740	2,367
17. Cotton piece-goods, in bales	602	47,795	488	36	206	39,141	98	134
18. Cotton piece-goods, in boxes	26	2,441	...	...	3	582	8	...
19. Cotton twist, European	3,403	240	2,085	4,583	738	300	191	639
20. Ditto, Indian	314	1,474	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Salt	524	16,109	438	140	66	21,421	30	31
22. Kerosine oil	66,447	2,11,203	6,070	5,367	3,516	1,85,234	490	197
23.	1,631	55,042	20,691	1,944	3	17,334	22	33
Total	8,34,705	8,91,900	4,13,798	10,11,053	2,70,072	2,65,998	1,62,495	4,94,308

LIST OF ARTICLES.	IMPORTS		EXPORTS		IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Shahabad.				Barru.			
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	2,441	8,50,928	5,440	1,797	7,94,644	1,94,817	9,338	4,008
2. Paddy	2,378	1,740	94	441	91,481	1,81,236	3,34	2,003
3. Wheat	2,21,088	6,035	2,647	9,011	18,487	1,27,086	4,010	6,879
4. Gram and pulse	1,30,677	16,456	1,183	76,616	30,817	2,77,761	14,590	9,038
5. Other food-grains	1,88,464	53,733	4,137	6,130	6,83,614	6,31,360	27,740	30,844
6. Jute, raw	5	...	77	664	153	1	161	521
7. Gunny-bags	1,964	10,089	4,257	7,870	9,400	2,301	14,680	21,573
8. Linseed	3,063	512	203	1,94,069	18,283	1,19,644	9,812	1,06,908
9. Mustard seed	18,180	2,943	283	2,434	6,903	7,351	261	6,376
10. Tea, Indian	2	17	2	...	34	2	5	...
11. Cotton, raw	12,318	95	41	...	202	544	340	...
12. Silk, raw ... ..	...	41	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Sugar, refined	265	1,018	2,777	351	2,790	13,093	10,308	21,613
14. Do., unrefined	2,487	6,929	1,12,248	93,545	786	80,009	6,303	12,996
15. Tobacco, manufactured	64	77	7	156	1,934	340	219	104
16. Ditto, unmanufactured	50	26,416	604	583	83,738	640	1,318	617
17. Cotton piece-goods, in bales	253	66,686	342	141	61,793	974	3,043	1,837
18. Cotton piece-goods, in boxes	788	2,980	...	2	...	...	...	...
19. Cotton twist, European ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,000	...	2,245	2,780
20. Ditto, Indian	10	120	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Salt	1,380	16,461	247	89	2,343	18	74	214
22. Kerosine oil	1,448	2,23,179	2,427	89	2,11,639	6,337	8,846	8,211
Total	5,40,080	10,97,083	1,29,803	4,01,002	19,31,386	16,45,000	1,20,220	2,20,149

LIST OF ARTICLES.	IMPORTS		EXPORTS		IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Champeran.				Masafurpur.			
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	2,747	1,602	42,396	14,363	2,26,487	3,61,440	3,61,788	11,940
2. Paddy	3,405	10,316	17,908	28,025	10,766	43,266	14,802	7,073
3. Wheat	114	1,247	3,818	9,346	7,448	51,024	6,221	6,189
4. Gram and pulse	340	2,542	879	5,374	18,301	51,168	11,983	11,808
5. Other food-grains	16,085	18,984	74,228	86,230	92,923	3,45,527	3,01,616	1,94,368
6. Jute, raw	337	180	...	464	132	368	250	1,169
7. Gunny-bags	9,240	2,516	950	1,041	14,993	10,644	12,837	8,223
8. Linseed	1,283	1,506	15,715	1,46,810	1,279	24,663	1,15,789	2,08,461
9. Mustard seed	303	279	923	3,681	2,089	6,063	7,406	11,744
10. Tea, Indian	28	1	...	...	17	14	4	9
11. Cotton, raw	153	3,335	11	29	1,836	1,397	261	309
12. Silk, raw ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	24
13. Sugar, refined	1,131	36,093	1,179	11,280	7,406	19,860	1,091	1,130
14. Do., unrefined	706	1,535	731	6,267	9,003	36,797	1,410	2,683
15. Tobacco, manufactured	1,602	737	153	75	285	67	1,176	714
16. Ditto, unmanufactured	32,767	148	893	467	17,664	773	1,22,610	60,088
17. Cotton piece-goods, in bales	11,263	2,873	160	112	...	...	...	...
18. Cotton piece-goods, in boxes	70,181	387	178	404	44,268	681	688	890
19. Cotton twist, European	111	...	...	...	1,834	581	265	454
20. Ditto, Indian	4,861	182	...	45	126	3	22	36
21. Salt	1,98,135	79,374	17,540	2,641	5,803	480	64	108
22. Kerosine oil	22,863	2,306	1,720	87	2,04,974	11,008	21,075	15,765
Total	2,87,715	1,66,544	1,79,385	3,16,630	7,12,587	9,40,967	11,76,997	4,74,195

LIST OF ARTICLES.	IMPORTS		EXPORTS		IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	Darrhanga.				Total.			
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	40,092	5,89,935	4,00,374	1,42,071	11,81,156	20,68,110	10,94,790	2,52,670
2. Paddy	20,067	3,07,117	51,607	84,477	1,60,328	5,15,195	75,392	65,908
3. Wheat	18,858	25,098	7,594	2,604	5,92,048	2,34,316	23,635	43,326
4. Gram and pulse	8,631	14,784	18,431	2,668	6,24,071	5,01,730	1,93,186	2,12,098
5. Other food-grains	2,72,690	3,90,691	5,72,632	1,99,903	12,86,970	14,47,954	10,97,335	4,60,180
6. Jute, raw	904	1,114	476	1,270	2,040	2,403	1,046	5,875
7. Gunny-bags	25,800	16,121	19,185	18,166	74,117	96,102	60,692	70,623
8. Linseed	3,050	84,350	6,573	7,40,861	53,473	2,31,896	2,30,673	90,19,516
9. Mustard seed	2,034	40,017	14,480	85,013	24,973	60,600	24,964	1,97,521
10. Tea, Indian	85	18	...	724	277	110	17	739
11. Cotton, raw	3,194	1,465	1,270	80	26,192	7,273	2,996	3,392
12. Silk, raw	16	...	16	...	171	794	583	1,320
13. Sugar, refined	2,935	12,017	25,590	22,906	16,040	68,403	61,521	66,780
14. Do., unrefined	1,009	28,199	41,291	1,29,411	83,834	1,37,443	1,37,748	8,20,745
15. Tobacco, manufactured	241	3,070	1,898	2,034	6,031	5,102	4,188	10,128
16. Ditto, unmanufactured	696	1,373	1,740	2,88,349	1,20,914	68,685	4,25,517	2,40,785
17. Cotton piece-goods, in bales	75,042	618	3,614	318	1,22,273	1,48,908	7,044	2,800
18. Cotton piece-goods, in boxes	1,078	1,155	1,161	489	...	...	...	...
19. Cotton twist, European	273	16	231	96	79,930	4,018	7,681	12,690
20. Ditto, Indian	21,989	590	9,234	452	26,065	85,403	70,161	1,492
21. Salt	2,49,202	9,470	99,044	6,437	10,13,483	7,24,925	1,69,092	86,001
22. Kerosine oil	67,117	8,440	47,898	1,470	1,86,307	1,34,798	77,240	7,640
Total	10,35,974	15,30,125	14,67,061	16,22,251	67,14,480	66,23,677	27,68,766	46,19,866

The total of this railway trade with the different districts is shown below in thousands of maunds:—

District.	Imports		Exports		TOTAL		Total trade.
	From up-country.	From down-country.	To up-country.	To down-country.	Imports.	Exports.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.	1,000 Mds.
Patna ...	885	892	414	1,012	1,737	1,426	3,163
Gaya ...	270	366	183	495	635	678	1,313
Shahabad ...	540	1,007	140	401	1,637	541	2,178
Saran ...	1,932	1,546	180	389	3,477	419	3,896
Champana ...	387	167	179	317	584	496	1,080
Muzaffarpur ...	714	950	1,176	474	1,634	1,650	3,314
Darbhanga ...	1,036	1,520	1,487	1,628	2,556	3,115	5,671
Total ...	5,714	6,536	3,709	4,616	12,260	8,325	20,575

98. In order to explain as clearly as possible the particulars of this trade, I have had the following abstract prepared showing the movements of the principal articles:—

Statement showing the movements by rail of the following articles in the districts of the Patna Division during the year ending 31st March 1895.

Districts.	RICE AND PADDY IN 1,000 MAUNDS.					WHEAT IN 1,000 MAUNDS.					GRAIN AND PULSE IN 1,000 MAUNDS.										
	Imports			Exports		Balance for (+) or against (-) district.	Imports			Exports		Balance for (+) or against (-) district.	Imports			Exports		Balance for (+) or against (-) district.			
	From up.	From down.	Total.	Up.	Down.		Total.	From up.	From down.	Total.	Up.		Down.	Total.							
1	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Patna	182	309	505	121	158	146	-389	192	11	203	5	6	10	-193	207	70	356	96	186	294	+8
Gaya	1	18	19	110	158	258	+249	47	3	49	4	4	4	-45	138	66	189	49	12	61	-137
Shahabad	6	659	665	8	20	28	-651	252	8	258	3	9	12	-316	131	16	147	1	76	17	-70
Saran	866	356	1,192	18	48	173	-1,173	15	155	143	7	11	13	-152	31	278	309	15	9	34	-395
Champan	6	13	16	6	48	103	+86	...	1	1	4	9	13	+13	...	3	3	...	6	6	+3
Muzaffarpur	239	385	624	367	130	297	-247	7	51	58	6	6	11	-47	...	51	69	13	13	34	-45
Darbhanga	60	867	927	444	130	634	-303	19	25	44	7	4	81	-33	...	15	24	18	3	26	-4
Total	1,330	2,094	3,064	1,110	445	1,855	-2,209	568	324	736	29	45	73	-464	554	302	1,025	193	313	505	-621
OTHER FOOD-GRAINS IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
LINTERED IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
MUSTARD SEED IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
Patna	137	8	135	19	59	71	-64	26	1	27	3	504	+577	7	3	9	...	...	46	+36	
Gaya	136	53	191	4	6	10	-181	...	...	...	...	118	+118	...	...	...	...	...	6	+6	
Shahabad	634	621	1,255	38	61	119	+1,136	18	120	138	10	189	+189	...	...	...	...	...	6	-30	
Saran	16	19	35	74	66	160	+125	1	25	26	16	147	+161	...	...	...	...	...	6	+8	
Champan	92	446	488	393	125	573	+80	1	25	26	16	147	+161	...	...	...	...	...	19	+39	
Muzaffarpur	373	410	773	573	200	773	...	3	84	87	7	541	+601	...	...	...	...	...	101	+59	
Darbhanga	1,357	1,443	2,835	1,066	559	1,637	+1,094	43	332	375	251	2,020	+1,986	37	40	97	25	188	183	+86	
Total	1,357	1,443	2,835	1,066	559	1,637	+1,094	43	332	375	251	2,020	+1,986	37	40	97	25	188	183	+86	
SUGAR, UNREFINED, IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED, IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
COTTON FIBRE-GOODS (EUROPEAN) IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
Patna	31	21	25	12	94	104	+51	24	13	37	123	46	171	+134	1	68	30	1	...	1	-58
Gaya	44	7	10	118	184	197	+197	31	15	46	4	3	6	-40	...	30	30	...	...	...	-30
Shahabad	1	81	82	5	14	19	-83	...	25	35	1	1	3	-35	...	69	69	...			-39
Saran	1	3	3	1	6	7	+4	35	1	35	1	1	3	-33	...	33	33	3	...	...	-33
Champan	9	27	36	3	8	8	-31	33	...	33	1	1	3	-31	...	11	1	...	...	...	-31
Muzaffarpur	2	35	40	41	125	166	+136	17	1	18	123	226	183	+165	44	44	45	...	1	...	-44
Darbhanga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	+339	75	1	76	...	...	...	-75
Total	54	138	373	187	520	707	+575	139	66	205	465	341	786	+661	153	147	320	7	3	10	-329
COTTON FIBRE-GOODS (INDIAN) IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
SALT IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
KEEROSENE OIL IN 1,000 MAUNDS.																					
Patna	3	1	3	3	6	8	+5	46	311	357	6	5	11	-245	3	84	85	29	3	22	-54
Gaya	1	1	2	...	...	...	+3	1	185	186	...	...	...	-210	...	17	17	...	...	...	-17
Shahabad	1	1	2	4	3	6	+3	213	283	310	3	5	14	-221	...	9	9	...	...	...	-9
Saran	3	1	4	...	...	...	+2	218	7	219	0	...	...	-253	...	13	13	...	...	...	-13
Champan	70	...	70	...	...	...	-70	166	26	27	18	3	21	-255	...	13	13	...	...	...	-13
Muzaffarpur	2	1	3	...	1	1	-2	305	10	316	23	16	45	-166	...	3	3	...	...	...	-3
Darbhanga	1	1	2	...	...	...	-3	308	16	314	100	17	167	-323	...	4	4	...	...	...	-4
Total	80	...	80	...	...	...	-80	1,015	756	2,741	1,000	107	1,007	-3,627	...	...	...	...	...	...	-61

99. *Food-grains*.—It will be seen that the balance of rail-borne trade in food-grains has during the past year been very heavily against the Division as a whole. Taking all food-grains together, the imports amounted to 8,541 thousands of maunds against exports aggregating 3,789 thousands of maunds, showing a balance against the Division of 4,752 thousands of maunds. The only districts which show a balance in their favour are Gaya and Champaran to the extent of 75 thousands and 223 thousands of maunds respectively. The balance against the others is:—

Patna	...	...	608	thousands of maunds.
Shahabad	...	...	1,118	" "
Saran	...	...	2,725	" "
Muzaffarpur	...	...	259	" "
Darbhanga	...	...	340	" "

The above unfavourable balances will be further increased by taking into account the trade with Nepal, which shows imports of food-grains during the year of over 1,613 thousands of maunds into the three northern districts, as will be seen by reference to paragraph 113 below.

100. *Oilseeds, Sugar, Tobacco*.—On the other hand, the balance of the rail-borne trade was in favour of the Division in oilseeds by 2,072 thousands of maunds, Darbhanga, Patna, Muzaffarpur being the chief exporters; in unrefined sugar by 485 thousands of maunds, chiefly from Shahabad, Gaya, Darbhanga, and Patna; and in unmanufactured tobacco to the extent of 561 thousands of maunds, most of which came from the Darbhanga, Patna, and Muzaffarpur districts.

101. *Salt, Piece-goods, Kerosine oil*.—The net importations by rail of salt into the Division were 1,537 thousands of maunds (approximately 4 seers per head of population); of cotton piece-goods 383 thousands of maunds, of which 320 were of European and 63 thousands of Indian manufacture; and of kerosine oil 232 thousands of maunds. It will be noticed that a larger quantity of salt went to Champaran than to any other district, besides practically the whole of the cotton piece-goods of Indian manufacture. This was for re-export to Nepal.

102. But it is to be remembered that besides the above rail-borne traffic, there is a heavy river-borne trade to and from the different districts by the Ganges, Gogra, Gandak, and other smaller rivers, of which we have no statistics. On this subject the following remarks by the Collector of the Patna district may be quoted:—

“A glance at the statements prepared by the East Indian Railway authorities, showing the rail-borne trade of this district, will at once discover certain marked characteristics. At the same time it must be remembered that the rail-borne trade represents but a very small part of the trade of the whole district. In the case of certain articles only can the figures be looked on as representing the total imports or exports, and these are exceedingly few in number. The reason of this is to be found in the fact that the main stream of the Ganges traverses the northern boundary of the district with the large marts of Dinapore, Bankipore, and Patna situated upon it, and the greater part of the merchandise of the district is borne upon its waters in a weekly service of steamers to and from Calcutta (there is a bi-weekly service during the busy season), and in a large number of country boats.

“To indicate the very large amount of river-borne traffic, I may note that Messrs. Ralli Brothers' Agent informs me that nearly the whole of the grain and oilseeds purchased by that firm in this city is sent to Calcutta by steamer. Thus I estimate that, while about two hundred and fifty thousands maunds of linseed are exported yearly from Patna City by rail, at least twice that quantity is exported by boat and steamer. The same remarks apply with equal truth to the export of all food-grains and oilseeds.”

103. *River-borne trade between Bihar and the Nadia rivers system.*—The portion of this trade which finds its way into the returns of the Nadia rivers system is shown in the following abstract statement:—

Statement showing the exports and imports from and to the Patna Division as shown in the traffic returns of the Nadia rivers.

DISTRICTS.	EXPORTS FROM THE PATNA DIVISION.				IMPORTS TO THE PATNA DIVISION.		
	Food-grains.	Oilseeds.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Food-grains.	Salt.	Kerosine oil.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Patna ...	17,162	82,081	2,361	21,768	Nil	15,020	42,060
Gaya ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Shahabad ...	21,012	498	240	25	...	550	...
Saran ...	18,211	64,110	1,661	Nil	17,536	12,600	23,036
Champeran ...	200	54,957	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Muzaffarpur ...	60	6,199	Nil	1,267	Nil	Nil	726
Darbhanga ...	278	72,161	Nil	9,936	2,936	6,660	620
Total ...	66,903	2,79,966	4,312	33,021	20,471	34,820	66,931

Some figures have also been sent to me by the Collectors of Patna and Saran, taken from the returns of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, of the trade from this Division which finds its way into those canals. The whole quantity shown is only 1,475 maunds, of which 1,100 maunds consisted of exports of unmanufactured tobacco.

104. As directed in paragraph 3 of Government order, Miscellaneous No. 3250, dated 12th September 1894, I give the following statement of the imports into Calcutta of some of the principal trade staples from the different districts of the Patna Division. The figures have been compiled from the monthly statements published in the *Calcutta Gazette*:—

Imports from the Patna Division into Calcutta from 1st April 1894 to 31st March 1895.

WHENCE IMPORTED.	FOOD-GRAINS.						OILSEEDS.		SUGAR.		TOBACCO.		
	RICE AND PADDY.			Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Refined.	Un-refined.	Un-manufactured.	Manufactured.
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total in rice.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Patna ...	6,995	...	6,995	2,018	1,05,126	60,611	2,37,730	8,35,831	20,631	1,811	34,068	13,951	12,877
Gaya ...	100	...	100	...	8,584	673	8,366	1,15,623	2,462	...	43,619	625	4,768
Shahabad ...	2,285	...	2,285	1,645	73,592	5,162	83,384	2,31,369	1,610	...	63,213	...	23
Saran ...	9	...	9	1,600	8,325	9,560	19,304	1,68,136	14,906	248	5,771	187	1
Champeran ...	14	...	14	...	11	1,494	1,519	1,66,232	4,546	...	690	42	1
Muzaffarpur ...	661	...	661	...	659	4,989	6,309	2,79,533	8,916	...	...	998	7
Darbhanga ...	1,574	26	1,599	7,097	2,208	1,489	19,307	4,97,042	63,143	8	12,113	7,928	603
Total for 1894-95 ...	12,639	26	12,664	19,190	2,02,603	80,970	3,74,819	33,62,765	1,22,783	2,067	1,69,463	23,890	18,389
Total for 1893-94 ...	1,53,831	2,063	1,56,199	76,193	5,18,903	1,99,563	9,69,820	22,66,191	6,09,616	8,718	1,46,197	12,800	20,368

It will be seen that there has been a very heavy falling off from $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds in the aggregate quantity of food-grains received in Calcutta from the Patna Division as compared with the results of the previous year. In the exports of oilseeds from here to Calcutta there has also been a decrease from about 39 lakhs of maunds to about 24 lakhs; while the exports of sugar and tobacco have slightly increased. But I am not aware from where the figures in the returns published in the *Calcutta Gazette* are obtained, and I find it difficult to reconcile them with those given in paragraph 98 above. For instance, the down exports under the head of rice are shown in column 6 of the abstract in paragraph 98 to have aggregated 445 thousands of maunds, of wheat 43 thousands, of gram 312 thousands, and of other food-grains 559 thousands; while according to the present statement the imports from this Division into Calcutta were, of rice only $12\frac{1}{2}$ thousands of

maunds. of wheat 12 thousands, of gram 262½ thousands, and of other food-grains 87 thousands. I do not know how to explain these large differences, except on the supposition that the bulk of the down exports shown in the abstract in paragraph 98 represent merely inter-district transactions between the districts of Bihar itself and between Bihar and other districts on the way from here to Calcutta.

105. Taking the districts individually, I note as follows:—

Patna.—The City of Patna, the Collector observes, besides being the distributing mart of the Patna district, is an important emporium of trade for the neighbouring districts of Bihar as well as for Ghazipur, Goruckpur, and Fyzabad in the North-West Provinces. The products of these districts, consisting chiefly of grains of all kinds, are brought to Patna by boat, while salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil and miscellaneous manufactured goods are exported in return. It is reported that 250 maunds of bar silver, valued at seven lakhs of rupees, were imported into Patna during the past year, a somewhat remarkable fact which points to the prosperity of the place.

The city of Patna is no doubt, as the Collector says, a very considerable centre of trade; yet it will be seen that the total trade of the district by railway is less than that of either Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, or Saran.

106. *Gaya.*—The total rail-borne trade of Gaya is less than that of any district in the Division, excepting Champaran, though its export trade is better than that of Shahabad or Saran. As in the previous year, the principal trade routes in this district are the Patna-Gaya Railway and the Patna (Eastern Sone) canal, which serve the centre and west of the district, and also Palamau and part of Lohardaga and Hazaribagh. The trade of the east of the district goes *via* Bihar through Bakhtiarpur and *via* Shaikhpura through Lakhisarai on the East Indian Railway, and a considerable portion of the trade of the south goes by the Grand Trunk Road.

The Collector observes that the figures show a considerable increase in the importation of food-grains which is explained by the poor *bhadoi* harvest. At the same time there was also a large export of food-grains, especially of rice, which is always exported even though cheaper food-grains have to be imported. There is a large increase in the imports of sugar which the Collector thinks due to unrefined sugar or *gur* not having been included in the railway returns furnished to him last year. The tobacco imports fell off considerably, but the Collector says that a large quantity has come in since the close of the year. The importation of piece-goods was about the same as in the previous year. Salt shows an increase which is attributed to the prosperous condition of the people. The exportations of oilseeds and unrefined sugar both show a falling off due principally to poor crops.

107. *Shahabad.*—The East Indian Railway, which traverses the district, continues to afford facilities for both imports and exports, and the Grand Trunk Road, canals and other feeder roads afford easy communication with the railway. As reported last year, there is a great inter-district trade in grain, oilseed, cotton and *ghee* carried by pack-bullocks from the large mart of Garhwa in Palamau to Sasaram, whence it finds its way by canal steamer or cart to the nearest railway station.

The following figures furnished by the Collector compare the general state of trade of some of the principal articles during the past two years:—

		IMPORT.	
Articles.		1893-94. Maunds.	1894-95. Maunds.
Rice	...	5,26,244	6,53,369
Piece-goods	...	78,235	58,366
Salt	...	226,123	2,24,621
Tobacco	...	60,585	35,468
Other grains	...	70,392	1,91,196
		EXPORT.	
Wheat	...	35,094	11,658
Linseed	...	2,39,059	1,98,272
Sugar	...	2,72,208	3,028
Mustard	...	23,652	2,617

Among imports, rice and other grains show an increase of about 1½ lakhs maunds

each, which contrasts significantly with the reduced exports of wheat. The slight decrease in salt is mainly due to the rise in price which is said to deter the poorer classes and the bulk of cultivators from the free use of that commodity for their cattle. The decrease in tobacco is not explained, but may possibly be due to a better local outturn, while that under the head of piece-goods is attributed to the general depression resulting from sickness and poor crops and comparatively fewer marriages.

The decrease in the exports of wheat, linseed, sugar, and mustard is due to unfavourable harvests.

Mr. Marindin reports that rice is largely imported into this district from Birbhum, Darbhanga, and Purnea, wheat and grain from Delhi, Ludhiana, and other parts of the Punjab, *ghee* and linseed are exported to Calcutta, tobacco is imported from Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, while sugar is exported to Agra and Cawnpore.

A considerable trade in bamboos and wood is carried on at Sasaram with Patna, Benares, and Allahabad. The value of this trade during the year is reported at Rs. 1,39,204 against Rs. 1,02,495 of the previous year.

The subjoined figures show the total canal-borne traffic of the Arrah-Dehri and Buxar-Sasaram Canals during the past two years:—

		Quantity. Maunds.	Value. Rs.
1893-94	...	39,437	35,79,986
1894-95	...	36,120	31,45,322

On the whole the year was not a prosperous one, from a trade point of view, to this district. It has been noticed in paragraph 98 above how seriously the balance of trade in food-grains was against it. On the other hand, it was the largest exporter of sugar of all the districts, and its exports of linseed, though less than in the previous year, were still very considerable.

108. *Saran*.—This district is, and has for many years past been, the one of all in Bihar against which we find the balance of trade heaviest. Of the 47½ lakhs of maunds deficit in the rail-borne traffic in food-grains of the Division, Saran was alone responsible for 27½ lakhs. It imported by rail 11½ lakhs of maunds of rice over 4 lakhs of wheat and grain, and nearly 11½ lakhs of other food-grains in excess of its exports. In other articles of country produce it also compares very badly with the other districts. It will be observed that under the heads of oilseeds, sugar, and tobacco, in each of which the balance was in favour of the Division as a whole, it was against Saran.

Looking at the trade figures, the population ought to perish offhand. Why they do not, has been explained in paragraph 61 of this report.

As already mentioned, besides the rail-borne traffic there is also a large river-borne trade at Chapra, Revelganj, and other smaller posts on the Ganges and Gogra, of which we have no statistics. The Collector roughly estimates this traffic at about one-half of that carried by the railway, and he also appears to think that it is, as regards food-grains and other country produce, chiefly export traffic.

109. *Champanan*.—The total trade by railway of this district is lowest of any in the Division. At the same time it is the only district which

* This, however, is more than counterbalanced by the heavy importations from Nepal (see paragraph 113 below). Taking these into account, there is a balance against the district of about 2,18,000 maunds.

shows a considerable balance to the good in the matter of transactions in food-grains.* It is also, as already remarked, the largest importer of salt and of Indian cotton goods. While the other six districts imported between them 14,000 maunds of Indian piece-goods and exported 21,060 maunds, Champanan alone imported some 70,000 maunds and exported (by rail) only between 500 and 600 maunds. The Collector observes that among imports there is a noticeable increase in tobacco, which is ascribed to the fact of the local mahajans profiting by the low price in other districts to lay in larger supplies.

110. *Muzaffarpur*.—There was a considerable rail-borne trade, both export and import, of food-grains, resulting, as already noticed, in a net balance against the district of 2,59,000 maunds.† There was also a large export of oilseeds, the balance in favour of the district being 4,06,000 maunds, as well as of unmanufactured tobacco, with a balance to the good of 1,65,000 maunds.

† By taking into account the imports from Nepal, this will be raised to 10,57,000 maunds.

111. *Darbhanga*.—The railway returns show a considerably heavier total export trade in the case of this district than in that of any other, and an import trade only exceeded by Saran. One reason of this appears to be a mistake of the Railway authorities in including the eight marginally-noted stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway in the Darbhanga district, whereas the first five lie, I believe, in Monghyr and the last three in Muzaffarpur. This mistake has been brought to my notice

too late for me to be able to have the figures of the Darbhanga returns corrected.

112. The subjoined statement prescribed by Government orders No. 2 Circular, dated 16th April 1895, shows the trade with Nepal registered at the different registering stations in the three northern districts during the year under review.

Statement showing the trade of Bengal with Nepal registered at each registering station in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, in respect of 22 articles during the year 1894-95.

LIST OF ARTICLES.	CHAMPARAN.		MUZAFFARPUR.		DARBHANGA.		TOTAL.	
	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	38,453	192	2,43,609	.....	1,45,784	.....	4,18,048	192
2. Paddy	3,02,793	190	1,70,136	.....	1,23,213	.....	5,96,142	190
3. Wheat	4,638	14	21,075	.....	815	.....	26,528	14
4. Gram and pulse	22,241	316	89,114	.....	8,398	.....	1,19,698	316
5. Other food-grains	84,004	52	2,73,105	.....	96,007	.....	4,53,116	52
6. Jute, raw	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
7. Gunny-bags	No.	3,920	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,920
8. Linseed	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
9. Mustard seed	69,857	60	1,11,607	.....	26,324	.....	2,07,788	60
10. Tea, Indian	10,350	472	16,607	21	12,307	18	39,324	511
11. Cotton, raw ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12. Silk, raw ... ..	.....	2,016	328	71	149	.....	477	2,117
13. Sugar, refined ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14. Do., unrefined	33	3,174	.....	1,359	.....	654	31	5,187
15. Tobacco, manufactured	69	10,607	.....	6,484	.....	5,226	69	26,317
16. Ditto, unmanufactured	5	16,327	1,093	8,071	5,567	12	6,994	24,410
17. Cotton piece-goods, European	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
18. Ditto, Indian	214	12,10,378	.....	1,82,235	.....	1,58,408	215	15,50,911
19. Cotton twist, European	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
20. Ditto, Indian ... ..	.....	4,553	.....	20,353	.....	1,550	188	2,07,648
21. Salt ... ..	.....	146	.....	802	.....	128	.....	5,633
22. Kerosine (mineral) oil	273	77,131	.....	152	.....	72	273	370
	1	26,403	.....	8,096	.....	1,835	1	31,234

113. The principal articles of import from Nepal are rice, paddy, gram, pulses, and oilseeds, while the chief articles of export to that country are cotton piece-goods, salt and sugar; besides considerable quantities of tobacco and kerosine oil. The fluctuations in the chief articles of trade will be seen from the following abstract:—

DISTRICTS.	IMPORTS FROM NEPAL.				EXPORTS TO NEPAL.											
	Food-grains.		Oilseeds.		Cotton piece-goods.		Salt.		Sugar.		Cotton twist.		Tobacco.		Kerosine oil.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Figures not available.	Mds.	Figures not available.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Champaran	3,40,158	4,41,620	66,871	60,207	12,30,446	13,67,018	6,943	77,131	16,063	19,781	.....	4,789	.....	16,337	21,926	26,409
Muzaffarpur	4,06,720	7,07,839	1,21,343	1,28,214	2,12,498	2,11,578	31,117	82,375	5,317	7,444	.....	1,014	.....	8,071	1,807	3,096
Darbhanga	3,30,309	3,74,123	32,287	38,961	1,07,334	1,50,068	13,977	21,308	5,510	5,583	.....	240	.....	13	1,646	1,822
Total	11,55,883	16,13,407	2,20,491	2,47,112	16,06,978	17,58,554	1,18,037	1,51,314	26,940	33,504	Figures not available.	6,003	Figures not available.	24,410	23,429	31,316

It will be seen that the bulk of the trade in valuable commodities, such as salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil, &c., passes through Champaran, which is on the high road to Khatmandu, while the products and the requirements of the Terai

each, which contrasts significantly with the reduced exports of wheat. The slight decrease in salt is mainly due to the rise in price which is said to deter the poorer classes and the bulk of cultivators from the free use of that commodity for their cattle. The decrease in tobacco is not explained, but may possibly be due to a better local outturn, while that under the head of piece-goods is attributed to the general depression resulting from sickness and poor crops and comparatively fewer marriages.

The decrease in the exports of wheat, linseed, sugar, and mustard is due to unfavourable harvests.

Mr. Marindin reports that rice is largely imported into this district from Birbhum, Darbhanga, and Purnea, wheat and grain from Delhi, Ludhiana, and other parts of the Punjab, *ghee* and linseed are exported to Calcutta, tobacco is imported from Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, while sugar is exported to Agra and Cawnpore.

A considerable trade in bamboos and wood is carried on at Sasaram with Patna, Benares, and Allahabad. The value of this trade during the year is reported at Rs. 1,39,204 against Rs. 1,02,495 of the previous year.

The subjoined figures show the total canal-borne traffic of the Arrah-Dehri and Buxar-Sasaram Canals during the past two years:—

		Quantity. Maunds.	Value. Rs.
1893-94	...	39,437	35,79,986
1894-95	...	36,120	31,45,322

On the whole the year was not a prosperous one, from a trade point of view, to this district. It has been noticed in paragraph 98 above how seriously the balance of trade in food-grains was against it. On the other hand, it was the largest exporter of sugar of all the districts, and its exports of linseed, though less than in the previous year, were still very considerable.

108. *Saran*.—This district is, and has for many years past been, the one of all in Bihar against which we find the balance of trade heaviest. Of the 47½ lakhs of maunds deficit in the rail-borne traffic in food-grains of the Division, Saran was alone responsible for 27½ lakhs. It imported by rail 11½ lakhs of maunds of rice over 4 lakhs of wheat and grain, and nearly 11½ lakhs of other food-grains in excess of its exports. In other articles of country produce it also compares very badly with the other districts. It will be observed that under the heads of oilseeds, sugar, and tobacco, in each of which the balance was in favour of the Division as a whole, it was against Saran.

Looking at the trade figures, the population ought to perish offhand. Why they do not, has been explained in paragraph 61 of this report.

As already mentioned, besides the rail-borne traffic there is also a large river-borne trade at Chapra, Revelganj, and other smaller posts on the Ganges and Gogra, of which we have no statistics. The Collector roughly estimates this traffic at about one-half of that carried by the railway, and he also appears to think that it is, as regards food-grains and other country produce, chiefly export traffic.

109. *Champanan*.—The total trade by railway of this district is lowest of any in the Division. At the same time it is the only district which shows a considerable balance to the good in the matter of transactions in food-grains.* It is also, as already remarked, the largest importer of salt and of Indian cotton goods. While the other six districts imported between them 14,000 maunds of Indian piece-goods and exported 21,000 maunds, Champanan alone imported some 70,000 maunds and exported (by rail) only between 500 and 600 maunds. The Collector observes that among imports there is a noticeable increase in tobacco, which is ascribed to the fact of the local mahajans profiting by the low price in other districts to lay in larger supplies.

110. *Muzaffarpur*.—There was a considerable rail-borne trade, both export and import, of food-grains, resulting, as already noticed, in a net balance against the district of 2,59,000 maunds.† There was also a large export of oilseeds, the balance in favour of the district being 4,06,000 maunds, as well as of unmanufactured tobacco, with a balance to the good of 1,65,000 maunds.

* This, however, is more than counterbalanced by the heavy importations from Nepal (see paragraph 113 below). Taking these into account, there is a balance against the district of about 2,18,000 maunds.

† By taking into account the imports from Nepal, this will be raised to 10,57,000 maunds.

111. *Darbhanga*.—The railway returns show a considerably heavier total export trade in the case of this district than in that of any other, and an import trade only exceeded by Saran. One reason of this appears to be a mistake of the Railway authorities in including the eight marginally-noted stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway in the Darbhanga district, whereas the first five lie, I believe, in Monghyr and the last three in Muzaffarpur. This mistake has been brought to my notice too late for me to be able to have the figures of the Darbhanga returns corrected.

112. The subjoined statement prescribed by Government orders No. 2 Circular, dated 16th April 1895, shows the trade with Nepal registered at the different registering stations in the three northern districts during the year under review.

Statement showing the trade of Bengal with Nepal registered at each registering station in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, in respect of 22 articles during the year 1894-95.

LIST OF ARTICLES.	CHAMPARAN.		MUZAFFARPUR.		DARBHANGA.		TOTAL.	
	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.	Import from Nepal.	Export to Nepal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Rice	28,453	192	2,43,809	.....	1,45,788	.....	4,18,048	192
2. Paddy	3,02,793	190	1,70,134	.....	1,23,215	.....	5,96,142	190
3. Wheat	4,538	14	21,675	.....	815	.....	26,528	14
4. Gram and pulse	22,241	316	89,114	.....	8,364	.....	1,19,668	316
5. Other food-grains	64,004	52	2,73,103	.....	96,067	.....	4,63,116	52
6. Jute, raw	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
7. Gunny-bags	3,920	3,920	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,920
8. Linseed	8,857	60	1,11,607	2	26,324	.....	3,97,788	62
9. Mustard seed	10,350	472	16,007	21	12,307	18	39,324	511
10. Tea, Indian ... ..	.....	2,016	328	71	149	.....	477	2,117
11. Cotton, raw ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12. Silk, raw ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13. Sugar, refined	33	3,174	.....	1,359	.....	654	33	5,187
14. Do., unrefined	69	10,607	.....	6,444	.....	6,226	69	28,317
15. Tobacco, manufactured	5	16,827	1,022	8,071	5,867	12	6,994	24,410
16. Ditto, unmanufactured ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17. Cotton piece-goods, European	Rs. 215	Rs. 12,10,278	Rs. 1,42,255	Rs. 20,393	Rs. 1,58,498	Rs. 215	Rs. 15,60,911	Rs. 2,07,663
18. Ditto, Indian	Mds. 188	Mds. 1,76,740	Mds. 20,393	Mds. 1,58,498	Mds. 188	Mds. 1,76,740	Mds. 20,393	Mds. 1,58,498
19. Cotton twist, European ... ..	.....	4,643	.....	802	.....	128	.....	5,633
20. Ditto, Indian ... ..	.....	146	.....	152	.....	72	.....	370
21. Salt	273	77,131	.....	32,375	.....	21,808	273	1,81,314
22. Kerosine (mineral) oil	1	20,403	.....	3,006	.....	1,823	1	31,231

113. The principal articles of import from Nepal are rice, paddy, gram, pulses, and oilseeds, while the chief articles of export to that country are cotton piece-goods, salt and sugar, besides considerable quantities of tobacco and kerosine oil. The fluctuations in the chief articles of trade will be seen from the following abstract:—

DISTRICTS.	IMPORTS FROM NEPAL.				EXPORTS TO NEPAL.									
	Food-grains.		Oilseeds.		Cotton piece-goods.		Salt.		Sugar.		Cotton twist.		Tobacco.	Kerosine oil.
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Champaran	3,49,158	4,41,529	66,871	80,207	13,30,440	13,97,018	6,943	77,131	15,063	19,781	Figures not available.	4,789	10,337	21,928
Muzaffarpur	4,66,726	7,97,839	1,21,243	1,28,214	2,12,498	2,11,578	31,117	32,375	6,367	7,531	Figures not available.	1,014	8,071	1,807
Darbhanga	3,39,189	3,74,129	32,287	33,901	1,67,334	1,69,958	13,977	21,808	6,610	5,880	Figures not available.	250	19	1,630
Total	11,55,083	16,13,497	2,20,401	2,42,112	16,06,278	17,69,554	1,16,037	1,31,314	25,946	33,504	Figures not available.	6,003	24,410	25,426

It will be seen that the bulk of the trade in valuable commodities, such as salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil, &c., passes through Champaran, which is on the high road to Khatmandu, while the products and the requirements of the Terai

are more equally distributed among and met from all the three districts. There has been a satisfactory increase in the export trade with Nepal during the past year in all the principal articles of commerce, notably salt and kerosine oil.* The import trade in food-grains and pilseeds also shows an increase, but this, as before observed, only makes the balance of trade against the northern districts of this Division more serious than it otherwise would have been. We can only hope that the unregistered export river-borne traffic counterbalances this.

* The value of piece-goods exported to Nepal in 1893-94 was shown in last year's report as over 80 lakhs of rupees. This was a mistake arising from the submission to this office of incorrect returns from Champaran. The figures now given are correct.

X.—ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES.

114. The following police outposts in the several districts of this Division were abolished during the year according to the recommendations of the Police Redistribution Committee:—

DISTRICT.	Outposts abolished.
	(1. Nezipur.
	2. Chausa.
	3. Khira.
	4. Dhansoi.
Shahabad ...	5. Koilwar.
	6. Telanthie.
	7. Noan.
	8. Bhagwanpur.
	9. Durguti.
	(1. Jagapati.
Champaran ...	2. Siswa.
	3. Jalgawan.
	(1. Gedda.
Muzaffarpur ...	2. Janauth.
Darbhangha ...	1. Rohar.

The following outposts were converted into mere reporting centres in Gaya and Darbhanga:—

	(1. Bodh-Gaya.
	2. Gurna.
Gaya ...	3. Gobindpur.
	4. Hulasganj.
	(1. Harlakhi } on the Nepal Frontier.
Darbhangha ...	2. Lankehi }
	3. Rohar.

115. Thana Manair, in the Patna district, which was formerly within the jurisdiction of the Dinapore subdivision, was transferred to the Sadar subdivision during the year. One independent outpost was established at Rajpur in the Buxar subdivision of the Shahabad district. The independent outpost at Madhuban in Champaran was converted into a police-station. An outpost was established at Tajpur in Darbhanga. The site of the thana at Nagarbasti in the same district was removed to Warrisanagar.

116. The Gaya, Darbhanga, and Madhubani Municipal Benches were amalgamated with the Regular Bench under Government orders No. 1821J.D., dated the 9th October 1894, and No. 3992J., dated 18th September 1894.

117. A joint sub-registry office was opened at Koilwar in Shahabad from the 1st July 1894 for one year as an experimental measure.

118. As to the effect of the changes noticed in paragraph 114 above, Mr. Marindin writes:—"The immediate result of these changes, which involved alteration in thana jurisdiction and a good deal of shifting of officers, was to give some impetus to crime, and partially accounts for the increase of burglary in parts of the district." Mr. Tute writes:—"The abolition of the frontier outposts does not seem to have been a wise policy; cases of dacoity of more or less daring character not unfrequently occur in those parts."

I will ask the above two Magistrates to submit a further special report on the subject after another year's experience of the effect of the changes in question.

XI.—STATISTICAL ENQUIRIES.

119. The following are the principal subjects in connection with which statistical enquiries were made during the year:—

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Trade and commerce | (3) Crop forecasts. |
| (2) Price-lists. | (4) Births and deaths. |

There are registering stations on the trade routes leading to Nepal from the three frontier districts, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, for registration of the traffic between Nepal and these districts. The muharrirs in charge of these stations supply figures which are regularly submitted to Government by District Officers. It has been found, however, on enquiry that a considerable portion of the frontier trade in the Darbhanga district has been passing by routes not commanded by the existing traffic registering stations, and the sanction of Government has therefore lately been obtained to the readjustment of their positions.

Price lists are prepared by Deputy Collectors, assisted by Sub-Deputy Collectors and kanungos, and are published regularly in the *Calcutta Gazette*. No objection has been made to any of them.

Forecasts of crops are prepared under detailed instructions from the Director of Agriculture, and submitted to him by District Officers. They are based on information supplied by patwaries and jeth raiyats.

The registration of births and deaths is conducted by the police both in municipal and rural areas. In the municipal areas information is supplied by house-holders and residents. In rural areas the village chaukidars report to the officers in charge of police-stations the births and deaths which occur in their respective jurisdictions. The subject received proper attention during the year, and the mortality figures may, I think, be taken to be approximately correct. Mr. Slack writes—"The District and Assistant District Superintendents of Police during their periodical visits, and the Inspectors of Police when on duty in the interior, and station police officers both at the weekly chaukidari parades and in the mufassal, carefully examined and tested the reports made from time to time. As the result of the tests made, 29 chaukidars were found to be negligent of their duties in this respect. Of these, 17 were prosecuted under section 176, Indian Penal Code, and 12 warned. Of the 17 prosecuted, 16 were convicted, and the trial of one was pending at the close of the year. The total amount of fines inflicted on the 16 chaukidars amounted to Rs. 60-8, or an average of Rs. 3-12-6 per head."

Chaukidars found guilty of negligence in this respect are also similarly called to account in the other districts.

XII.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

120. There was no change in the number or description of the Civil Courts during the year.

121. The total number of original civil suits disposed of by District Judges and Subordinate Judges, including the Small Cause Court, presided over by the Subdivisional Officer of Dinapore, was 2,929 against 3,133 in 1893, there being a decrease of 204 cases in the year under report. The suits are classed below—

			1894.	1893.
Money suits	...	...	1,503	1,936
Rent suits	...	...	284	298
Title suits	...	...	1,142	899
		Total ...	2,929	3,133

Of the total number, 1,305 cases were contested and 1,624 were otherwise disposed of. As in the previous year, there is a remarkable increase in title suits.

while there is a marked falling off in money suits, the reason apparently being that mortgage suits are now classified as title suits, instead of, as formerly, as money suits.

122. The following figures show the variations in the different districts under each class :—

	Money suits disposed of.		Rent suits disposed of.		Title suits disposed of.	
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna ...	469	503	97	22	254	179
Gaya ..	292	399	84	88	169	117
Shahabad ...	234	405	35	30	143	207
Saran ...	381	461	10	16	182	165
Champan ...						
Musaffarpur ...	197	168	58	142	394	231
Darbhanga ...						
Total ..	1,503	1,986	284	298	1,142	899

I note that in most cases no explanations have been given by the Collectors of the variations, such as they are, in the different districts, the reason apparently being that they have not been favoured with any remarks on the subject by the District Judges. On this subject the Collector of Gaya makes the following suggestion:—"I think that Government might issue instructions that Judges should furnish Collectors with statistics showing the number and aggregate value of money suits, rent suits and title suits filed, and the extent to which rent is deposited in Court, and with an explanatory note mentioning briefly the reasons for fluctuations and any points of interest affecting the administration of the district that may have come to the notice of the Civil Courts, such as disputes between particular zamindars and their tenant, extent to which rent receipts are given that fulfil the requirements of the law, and the displacement of the landed classes by money-lenders." I agree in these remarks. Statistics and notes that throw light upon the various matters referred to by Mr. Macpherson would always be of interest and useful to the District Officers.

123. The number of witnesses examined in the above cases was 9,225, of whom 1,685, or 18·2 per cent., were detained more than two days, against 21·7 per cent. in the previous year. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 996, or 34·004 per cent., of the cases disposed of, against 1,219, or 38·9 per cent., in 1893.

124. The number of suits of each class disposed of by Munsifs during the last two years was as follows:—

	Money.	Rent.	Title.	Total.
1894 ...	9,277	21,079	6,127	36,483
1893 ...	10,274	17,907	5,613	33,794
Difference ...	— 997	+ 3,172	+ 514	+ 2,689

I regret that I can find no explanation of the large increase in rent suits in the papers before me, and I have not time now to invite explanations from the District Judges. If the suggestion made in paragraph 122 above is approved, the omission will not occur again in next year's report.

125. The subjoined statement shows the number of suits of each kind and the unit number disposed of by each Munsif in the Division—

NAME OF COURT.	NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF.			Number of unit cases disposed of.
	Money suits.	Ordinary rent suits.	Title suits.	
1	2	3	4	5
Patna, 1st Court	313	457	179	1,162
" 2nd "	747	282	173	1,091
" 3rd "	14	1,644	101	1,961
" 4th "	14	390	100	704
Bihar	130	341	112	792
Gaya, 1st Court	152	134	132	601
" 2nd "	79	149	135	611
" 3rd "	67	151	99	507
Aurangabad	251	231	122	817
Shahabad, 1st Court	253	2 000	206	2,710
" 2nd "	176	577	350	1,696
" 3rd "	28	577	293	1,484
Buxar, 1st Court	145	666	180	1,266
" 2nd "	21	688	167	1,207
Sasaram	355	583	247	1,514
Deputy Collector, Bhabua, with powers of a Munsif. ....	.....	3	.....	.....
Saran, 1st Court	244	56	483	1,614
" 2nd "	314	36	433	1,465
" 3rd " ... ..	.....	2,508	.....	2,508
Siwan	431	505	345	1,850
Gopalganj	421	439	89	1,032
Motihari, 1st Court	1,185	741	242	1,999
" 2nd "	202	1,319	204	2,133
Tirhut, 1st Court	779	1,594	21	1,925
" 2nd "	317	.....	393	1,496
Hajipur	279	1,226	211	2,017
Sitamarhi	642	1,045	349	2,408
Darbhanga	478	440	179	1,242
Madhubani	501	830	191	1,865
Samastipur	674	962	211	1,960
Additional Munsif, Tirhut	65	606	180	1,111
Total figures for 1894	9,277	21,079	6,127	44,748
" " 1893	10,274	17,907	5,613	41,027

Total courts, except that of Deputy Collector=30; average per court 1,491 unit cases.

N.B.—Unit cases are got by calculating one title suit equal to three money or rent suits and to nine Small Cause Court suits.

126. On the subject of the increase in rent suits the Collector of Muzaffarpur quotes the following remarks of the Judge of Tirhut:—

"Some Munsifs for want of a better reason attribute the increase to the survey and settlement operations now in progress throughout the district of Muzaffarpur; but as suits were instituted in larger numbers in places where these had not begun, I am not disposed to think this opinion correct. Very few appeals have been preferred against decisions of the settlement authorities, a fact which appears to me to show that as a rule they recorded the actual state of affairs and in no way caused any increase in the institution of cases."

To this Mr. Hare adds:—"No doubt many disputes have been brought to a head by the survey and record of rights, but it will be invaluable in the future in settling disputes and by standing in the way of the claims which uncertainty always gives rise to."

127. The number of witnesses examined by all Munsifs' courts was 37,416, of whom 6,945, or 18·5 per cent. were detained over two days. The percentage in 1893 was 20·7. There was thus an improvement in the year under report in this respect.

128. The number of cases pending before Munsifs of all courts in the Division on the 31st December 1894 was 7,510, or 20·5 per cent., of the cases disposed of, against 8,380, or 24·8 per cent. on the corresponding date of the previous year.

129. The details of appeal cases for each district are given below:—

DISTRICT.	Money.	Rent.	Title.	Total of all classes.	Decisions of Lower Court confirmed.	Ratio per cent. of appeals confirmed to the number disposed of.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna	74	298	186	558	284	50·89
Gaya	31	105	167	303	183	60·39
Shahabad... ..	45	465	347	857	537	62·66
Saran	99	266	220	585	338	57·7
Tirhut, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.	375	1,398	779	2,552	1,413	55·36
Total	624	2,532	1,699	4,855	2,755	56·7
Total for 1893 ...	618	2,092	1,334	4,044	2,180	53·9

It is satisfactory to note that although there was a considerable increase in the number of appeals, there was also a substantial improvement in results, the percentage of orders confirmed having risen from 53·9 to 56·7.

130. In original civil work disposed of by District Judges, Sub-Judges and Small Cause Court Judges, Patna, as in the previous year, stands first with 810 cases. Tirhut (Muzaffarpur-cum-Darbhangha) comes next with 589 cases; the dual districts of Saran and Champaran stand third with 573 cases; Gaya stands fourth with 545 cases; while Shahabad stands last with only 412 cases. As regards civil cases disposed of by Munsifs, Tirhut, as in the last year, shows the largest outturn (12,073 cases). Next in order comes Saran (with Champaran) with 10,196 cases; Shahabad comes next with 7,515 cases; then Patna with 4,997 cases; while the last place is occupied by Gaya with only 1,702 cases.

In appeal cases Tirhut stands first with 2,552 cases and Shahabad stands second with 857 cases. Next comes Saran (with Champaran) with 585 cases; then comes Patna with 558 cases; while Gaya stands last with only 303 cases.

131. The Collector of Shahabad makes the following remarks under this head:—

“The deposit of rent in Court is comparatively little resorted to in this district, where raiyats who quarrel with their landlords prefer to keep their money in hand and to plead payment. The District Judge says that since the introduction of Act VIII of 1885, section 150, there has been an enormous increase in the false plea of payment.”

The Acting Collector of Champaran, Mr. Fisher, makes the following remarks:—

“The number of cases of surrender increased greatly during the year. The matter was enquired into by my predecessor, who came to the conclusion this was due to the damage done to the crops by wild pigs which infest the adjoining swamps on the margin of the Dhanouti river. The Munsif, however, attributes the rise to bad feeling between Messrs. Cockell and Broneke and their tenants in the Bettiah subdivision. I think strained feelings between ticcadars and tenants may afford a more probable explanation than an increase of pigs.”

I agree with Mr. Fisher in rejecting the pig theory.

132. The Collector of Darbhanga recommends the location of a Sub-Judge's Court there. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Tute. The establishment of a Sub-Judge's Court at Darbhanga would certainly be a great convenience to the public.

XIII.—CRIME.

133. The total number of offences reported in the Division was—

		1893.	1894.	Decrease.
Cognizable offences	...	34,450	33,685	—765
Non-cognizable offences	...	16,921	16,827	—94
Total	...	51,371	50,512	—859

Excluding offences against sanitary laws, the figures stand thus:—

		1893.	1894.	Variation.
Cognizable	...	21,756	23,214	+1,458
Non-cognizable	...	16,921	16,827	—94
Total	...	38,677	40,041	+1,364

The increase in the non-sanitary offences occurs in all the districts, except Patna, and is no doubt partly due to cases being better reported than formerly. But there can also be no doubt that the drought caused by the unusual holding off of the rains and the consequent prolonged lack of field-work in the middle of the year had much to do with leading the lower classes into crime.

134. The fluctuations of cognizable crime are shown in the following table:—

CLASS OF CRIME.	1893.		1894.		Increase or decrease of true cases.
	Cases reported	True cases.	Cases reported.	True cases.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Class I (Offences against the State, &c.)	655	656	636	441	—116
.. II (Serious offences against the person)	896	779	955	842	+63
.. III (Serious offences against person and property)	9,412	9,161	10,710	10,427	+1,266
.. IV (Minor offences against the person)	230	179	237	191	+12
.. V (Minor offences against the property)	7,895	6,866	8,286	7,082	+196
.. VI (Other offences not specified above)	16,862	16,327	12,962	12,941	—2,886
Total	34,450	32,888	33,686	31,924	—964

The decrease under class I occurred in all the districts except Muzaffarpur. There was a marked decrease of rioting cases in Gaya and Shahabad, due no doubt in part to the cessation of the anti-kine-killing agitation in those districts, and especially to preventive action being freely taken under sections 106 and 107, Criminal Procedure Code.

The decrease under class II occurred principally in Gaya and Shahabad under the heads of Grievous hurt and Murder.

135. There is a marked increase under class III. It occurred in the districts of Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, and was principally under the head of

Burglaries.

Rurglary.

Mr. Marindin offers the following remarks in connection with the increase of this offence in his district:—"The policy of non-enquiry into burglary cases during the past few years has, I believe, had a bad effect, as it affords some encouragement to the criminal classes to hope they may commit the crime with

an increased chance of impunity, while the police, by abstaining from enquiry, lose some of their hold over the local budmashes." The increase in Saran is believed by the Magistrate to be due to better reporting—a belief in which I do not share; that in Muzaffarpur is attributed to the fact that the unusually low figures of the previous year were due to the easier prices of food; while the present Magistrate of Darbhanga thinks that the supervision over bad characters is not what it ought to be. I agree myself with the Magistrates of Muzaffarpur and Shahabad. Easier prices had much to do with the low figures in respect of burglary cases during the previous year, while I have no doubt whatever but that the system of refusing enquiry under section 157, Criminal Procedure Code, has generally been carried too far, and has had the mischievous effect pointed out by Mr. Marindin. I noticed this matter in paragraph 172 of last year's report, and I still hold to the opinion I there ventured to express. During the past year 45 per cent. of house-breaking cases were refused enquiry in Gaya, 33 per cent. in Patna, and 29 per cent. in Darbhanga. The divisional average of refusals in these cases was 31 per cent. as against 41 per cent. in 1893, but the number of such refusals is still, I think, much too high. I have gone into this matter fully in the Divisional crime report, so it is unnecessary for me to say more on the subject here.

136. The result of trials in burglary cases is especially satisfactory as compared with that of the previous year, as the following figures of persons show:—

YEAR.		Brought to trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
1		2	3	4	5
1893	...	145	111	28	20·1
1894	...	141	46	76	62·2

The results obtained were particularly satisfactory in Muzaffarpur, Champaran, and Gaya.

137. The number of dacoity cases increased from 42 in 1893 to 52 in 1894. The increase occurs in all the districts, except Patna, Saran, and Champaran. The increase in Muzaffarpur is attributed by the Magistrate to the Maghia domes of Motihari (and Saran?) eluding the surveillance of the local police and making inroads into his district. I concur in this view. Recent enquiries by the Magistrate and District Superintendent of Saran have unearthed several large gangs of professional burglars, residents of his and of the Champaran districts, who make it their practice to commit their depredations in other districts, as far away as possible from their own homes.

138. There has been a marked increase in robberies, or what may more properly be called highway robberies, the true cases having risen from 33 in 1893 to 63 in 1894. The increase is shared by all the districts, except Patna, the largest increase having occurred in Shahabad. In several of the cases, especially in Gaya and Shahabad, great violence, amounting sometimes to murder, was used. I regret to say that such cases still continue, particularly in Gaya, where they are evidently the work of individual roving gangs. So also in Shahabad, where the late acquittal in appeal by the High Court of a very notorious criminal of this class was shortly followed by another robbery with outrage, evidently committed by the same man and his gang, apparently from sheer bravado. The only remedy for the executive to have recourse to under such circumstances is by taking action under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, and this has been done in several cases in Shahabad with satisfactory results. The results in Gaya have not as yet been so successful. The outrage is generally committed on the high road by night, and the perpetrators make off in the darkness, none knows where.

139. Bad-livelihood cases decreased from 896 to 768 during the year. Saran shows the highest number and Muzaffarpur the lowest. One hundred and forty-nine, or 19·2 per cent., of the cases were tried in the village of the accused. The average duration of these cases was highest in Patna, viz. 31 days, and lowest in Muzaffarpur, viz. 14·4.

140. There was a considerable decrease in offences against sanitation, viz. from 12,691 in 1893 to 10,469 in 1894. This is due to the action of the police in dealing with petty cases of committing nuisance having been kept within proper bounds, in accordance with the wish of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, as noticed in paragraph 167 of last year's report. The judicial results in prosecutions of offences against the sanitary laws were satisfactory, 94·3 per cent. of the cases returned as true having ended in convictions.

141. The percentage of convictions in true cases enquired into by the police was 53·7 against 59·5 in 1893. The standard attained in the previous year has not therefore been maintained, but still the results were better than in any of the three years, 1890, 1891, or 1892.

142. The results in sessions cases were satisfactory, the percentage of convictions throughout the Division having been 72·6 in respect of persons and 76·9 in respect of cases, as compared with percentages of 52·9 and 71·4 respectively in the previous year. The improvement in Gaya (from 56·5 to 72·4), in Muzaffarpur (from 65·6 to 81·2), and in Darbhanga (from 55·0 to 76·4) is very marked.

143. The percentage of cases declared false to cases instituted during 1894 was 5·2 against 4·5 in 1893.

The number of prosecutions for institution of false cases was 155 against 138 in 1893; 47 or 30·3 per cent. of the cases ended in conviction. Compensation was awarded under section 560, Criminal Procedure Code, in 145 cases against 149 in the preceding year. There can be no doubt that sufficient advantage is not yet taken by Magistrates generally of this very useful section.

144. The number of cases not enquired into by the police was 3,679 against 4,205 in 1893, of which 283 were subsequently enquired into by order of the Magistrate, leaving the net number of cases not enquired into at 3,396 against 4,042 in the previous year.

145. The subject of the Magheya Domes of Saran and Champaran was noticed in paragraph 166 of last year's report. The proper surveillance over these people presents as great difficulties as ever. In Champaran the matter was taken in hand some 12 years ago by the then Magistrate, Mr. Henry, and the people—there practically members of a wandering tribe—were brought together into three or four large settlements. Land was given them and a small special police force sanctioned to keep watch over them.*

* There are now three of these settlements in Champaran with a total population of 218 persons and 77 bighas of land.

Some two years later the reclamation of the Magheya Domes of Saran was undertaken by Major Skinner, the then District Superintendent of Police, who gave much attention to the subject. It was found that in Saran—owing no doubt to the more settled and thickly populated character of the district—these Domes were not the gipsy wanderers they were in Champaran, but that in most cases they had settled down in small family groups, each of which had attached itself to some particular village. It was deemed impracticable, or at least highly undesirable, to attempt to break up these scattered groups and to bring them together into large central settlements, as had been done in Champaran; and the decision, I think, was a proper one. In the first place there were no sites available as there were in Champaran, and these would have had to be acquired at a very heavy cost to Government; in the next place, the object in view was to induce the Dome to take to a settled life, and this he had already half done for us by squatting down with his family, sometimes for several generations, in some village which he had come to regard as his "home." It was therefore considered best to recognise

and perpetuate these small scattered settlements, some 60 in number; to obtain small grants of land, on payment of rent in kind, at each place from the local zamindars, for cultivation by the Domes; and to appoint a special force of

* There are now 61 of these settlements in Saran, containing a population of 1,080 persons including women and children. They have in all 450½ bighas of land. A special police force of 2 head constables and 32 constables looks after them.

police to keep watch over the settlements and to see that the Domes paid proper attention to the cultivation of their lands. These proposals were approved by Government, and, thanks to the energy of Major Skinner, this programme was carried out and it is still the system in force in Saran.*

146. The endeavours thus made to wean these people from their predatory habits and to induce them to take to cultivation have not hitherto met with much success, but I think that we may still have hopes of influencing the next generation. All that has been done is, at any rate, so much to the good, and there can be no doubt but that the condition of these people and the control exercised over them are a great improvement on the state of things that formerly prevailed. The Government has lately, at my request, sanctioned the employment of a special 4th grade Inspector to supervise this particular branch of the police work in Saran, and also the annual grant of Rs. 1,000 for the up-keep of the Domes' houses, purchase of cattle, &c., and rewards to the best cultivators.

XIV.—POLICE.

RURAL POLICE.

147. The following statement shows the number of villages and chaukidars (a) under the old Regulations and (b) under Act VI of 1870 on the 1st January in each of the two last years in each district:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	ON 1ST JANUARY 1894.				ON 1ST JANUARY 1895.			
	UNDER THE OLD REGULATIONS.		UNDER ACT VI.		UNDER THE OLD REGULATIONS.		UNDER ACT VI.	
	Number of villages.	Number of chaukidars.	Number of villages.	Number of chaukidars.	Number of villages.	Number of chaukidars.	Number of villages.	Number of chaukidars.
I	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patna	1,838	850	1,791	2,384	1,180	747	1,800	2,419
Gaya	4,008	2,613	3,953	2,960	3,708	3,161	3,323	3,368
Shahabad	303	309	5,137	3,783	383	206	5,324	3,737
Saran	544	808	3,690	4,180	30	34	4,304	4,467
Champeran	601	397	1,554	2,060	427	304	1,616	2,111
Muzaffarpur	753	730	2,346	2,684	681	640	2,410	4,028
Darbhanga	313	309	2,830	3,719	246	241	2,671	4,014
Total	7,306	6,703	20,381	23,737	6,623	4,481	2,2347	24,063

There has thus been an advance made in all the districts, especially in Saran, in introducing the new system. Generally, where this has not yet been done, there is some obstacle in the way, such as the smallness of the village concerned and its inability to pay a money wage in place of the *jagir* which its chaukidar at present holds as the recompense for his services.

148. I may here say that I regard the provision of the Act by which these transformed chaukidars are deprived of their *jagirs* as a very unwise piece of modern legislation. Theoretically, the village panchayat should assess

the landlord, to whom the *jagir* is transferred, with one-half of its letting value. In practice nothing of the sort is done, the provisions for the recovery of the amount being much too complicated; and the ultimate resort, viz. the village panchayat putting the zamindar into the Civil Court for its recovery, is a spectacle which I think has never yet been witnessed. In effect, the landlord grabs the holding, and the villagers and chaukidar are left out in the cold. There seems to me no reason why such a transfer should ever have been required to be made. The theory seems to have been that the zamindar was entitled of old to a share in the services of the chaukidar. It is to be regretted that public interests were allowed to be sacrificed to a sentimental theory of the kind.

149. It will be observed that Gaya is the only district where the number of old Regulation chaukidars is still at all formidable. The reason of this, as explained in last year's report, is the prevalence there of the *bhaoli* system of rent, one of the incidents of which is the payment to the chaukidar of certain harvest allowances in lieu of salary. Care should be taken in that district not to push the change of system too far.

150. In most of the districts, the exceptions being Gaya and Shahabad, there has been some improvement in the matter of the punctual payment of the chaukidars. I hope that the system in force in the 24-Parganas and Saran, which has now been introduced in its entirety into most of the districts, will materially improve matters in this respect in future. I am unable to give figures here showing the number of defaults at the end of last year, as they have not been supplied to me from all the districts.

151. In paragraph 182 of last year's report the attention of District Officers was called to the desirability of making freer use of the Reward Fund as a means of encouraging good work among the chaukidars.

The following statement compares the results of the two past years:—

Statement showing rewards granted to Chaukidars during 1893 and 1894.

	1893.				1894.				1893.		1894.	
	JUDICIALLY.		DEPARTMENTALLY.		JUDICIALLY.		DEPARTMENTALLY.		TOTAL.		TOTAL.	
	Number of chaukidars.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Patna	6	•	23	•	6	•	68	•	20	209 0 0	68	106 8 0
Gaya	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24	224 8 0	76	229 0 0
Shahabad	6	21 0 0	20	106 0 0	3	16 0 0	20	116 0 0	26	157 0 0	26	152 0 0
Saran	14	•	29	•	10	•	67	•	28	223 0 0	67	261 8 0
Champanan	46	222 10 0	46	217 0 0	22	28 0 0	115	240 0 0	94	439 10 0	127	426 0 0
Munshipur	16	96 • •	23	100 0 0	1	5 0 0	51	211 8 0	49	196 0 0	52	216 8 0
Darbhanga	12	•	2	•	15	123 8 0	25	176 0 0	14	115 8 0	40	200 8 0
Total	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	229	1,614 10 0	428	1,748 0 0

* Separate figures not supplied.

It will be seen that in Champaran better use has been made of the Reward Fund during both of the two last years than in any other district. In all the others there is much room for improvement in this respect, especially in Shahabad.

TOWN POLICE.

152. In Patna City the Erskine's round system has continued to work well, and was introduced with success by Mr. Godfrey Faussett in a portion of the town of Gaya.

The Erskine patrol system.

It was also introduced in the town of Darbhanga from 1st April 1894, but does not appear to have been very efficiently supervised there. It is also in force in Muzaffarpur, but the Magistrate has not mentioned how it has worked.

153. The distribution of the duties of town police between the constabulary and chaukidars in the different districts was noticed in paragraphs 184 to 190 of last year's report. The only change since made has been the addition of 17 chaukidars to the force in Champaran. It is the general opinion among the Magistrates, in which I concur, that the substitution of chaukidars for constables in the towns where the latter are still employed should not be carried further. In the end there is not very much difference in cost, and the saving, such as it is, does not, I think, make up for the difference in the quality of the work.

154. The seven bodies of additional police mentioned in paragraph 496 of last year's report as having been quartered in various places in the district of Gaya on account

Additional Police.

of the anti-kine-killing disturbances there in 1893, and the large body of such police appointed for the same reason in the neighbourhood of Koath in the Shahabad district, were all removed after the *Bakr-Id* of 1894 had passed quietly.

But another small force of four constables and one head constable had to be quartered for three months on three villages called Bilahi, Balia and Chagwa, in the subdivision of Siwan, zilla Saran, owing to a dispute there of a similar nature. It is satisfactory to find that in the part of each district where resort has been had to this measure, there have been no further disturbances.

155. The provisions of section 17 of the Police Act were made use of in most of the districts during the *Bakr-Id* of 1894 and again during the current year to appoint

Special constables.

persons of local influence as special constables in places where feeling ran high. Care was always taken that the persons selected should not be subjected to any unnecessary harassment or called upon to perform unnecessary and irksome duties; and they were made thoroughly to understand the object of the measure, viz., (1) to impose upon them direct responsibility in the matter of preserving peace and order; and (2) to strengthen their hands in doing so. Made use of in this way in a judicious and considerate manner, this provision of law is often of very effective value.

156. As regards the conduct of the police force generally, the opinions of District Officers vary. Much fault is found by some Magistrates with the low standard of detective ability amongst investigating officers, with the want of industry and honesty of most of them, and with the general corruption and inefficiency amongst the lower grades; and the public and the press are always ready to join in the cry. There is no doubt much truth in these complaints, but at the same time allowance must be made for the materials we have to work with. The police are taken from the people and are what the people make them, and our efforts to improve them are always being countermined by the low morality of the mass of the people themselves, amongst whom they live and move. But there can be no question but that by discipline and strict and constant supervision we have done a great deal of late years to improve generally the work and morale of our police; and nobody can deny that a great advance has been made in both these respects since the old "Darogah" days. I often think it a significant fact, when I hear the police abused, that any proposal to abolish a police-station or outpost is invariably strongly objected to by the inhabitants of the locality; while numerous signed petitions for the establishment of new posts are probably within the experience of every District Officer.

General conduct of the police.

157. In respect of court duties and investigation into and suppression of ordinary crime, the work of the police during the past year appears to have been fully up to its usual standard. Indeed, the results in sessions cases, noticed in paragraph 142 of this report, give indication of an improvement in this department of the work. At the same time their executive duties in connection with the passage of reliefs through the Division and the tension of feeling

between Hindus and Muhammadans have been performed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, and I see no reason to modify the opinion in this respect that I recorded in last year's report.

XV.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

(i) WORKING OF THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES AND SESSIONS COURTS.

158. The following table shows the number of cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates, witnesses examined and detained over two days, and remands of six times and more in Police A form cases:—

Cases before Stipendiary Magistrates (excluding cases under class VI) during the calendar year 1894.

DISTRICT.	Subdivision.	Number of officers.	Cases disposed of.	Persons disposed of.	Ratio per cent. of persons convicted to disposed of.	Number of witnesses examined.	Ratio per cent. of witnesses detained over two days to total number examined.	Ratio per cent. of decisions confirmed in appeal to total appeals.	Number of A cases disposed of.	Number remanded six times and more.	Average number of cases disposed of per officer.	Average number of witnesses examined in each case.	Ratio per cent. of column 11 to column 10.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Patna	Sadar ...	72	825	526	64.77	2,151	5.48	73.3	137	17	41.93	6.6	12.4
	City ...	1	261	224	84.23	1,066	7.03	76.23	144	3	243.0	4.4	3.05
	Barr ...	1	371	307	82.7	983	8.6	89.2	124	6	371.6	2.6	4.6
	Bihar ...	1	379	347	91.3	3,068	0.67	84.8	267	6	189.5	5.8	1.87
	Dinapore ...	1	173	364	209	207	6.03	40.0	23	9	17.40	3.45	13.7
	District Total ...	131	1,491	2,068	80.56	6,864	5.12	73.5	737	30	116.9	4.8	8.3
Gaya	Sadar ...	81	808	1,358	46.7	5,490	4.2	73.3	415	7	101.4	6.2	1.6
	Nawada ...	2	345	413	73.06	970	34.7	7.9	130	9	17.30	1.30	7.6
	Aurangabad ...	1	367	414	68.8	1,232	1.4	75.6	186	10	267.0	4.6	6.3
	Jahangabad ...	14	447	815	40.0	1,619	6.8	73.3	133	10	24.00	3.6	6.1
	District Total ...	138	1,933	3,030	52.1	9,241	7.8	73.8	844	36	147.8	4.8	4.3
Shahabad	Sadar ...	6	533	1,103	58.6	4,766	0.8	88.1	327	6	139.6	5.7	2.6
	Buxar ...	12	415	575	65.5	3,169	1.1	90.3	170	13	237.1	7.7	7.6
	Bhainsa ...	1	308	472	59.6	1,117	.....	97.1	117	.....	293.0	3.9	.....
	Sasaram ...	3	405	538	59.4	2,182	1.1	93.9	153	3	308.5	5.3	1.3
	District Total ...	101	1,945	2,698	59.5	11,354	0.6	90.3	672	23	130.9	5.7	3.7
Barr	Sadar ...	74	1,934	2,731	58.4	5,311	3.7	80.6	445	26	252.1	4.3	5.3
	Siwan ...	11	1,144	1,837	59.0	5,431	1.9	86.1	171	2	702.6	3.9	1.1
	Gopalganj ...	14	851	1,003	61.47	3,685	9.4	89.3	264	2	480.3	4.3	1.1
	District Total ...	111	3,949	5,568	67.3	15,427	2.5	83.3	880	31	329.1	3.9	3.5
Champan	Sadar ...	3	1,040	1,265	55.8	4,648	1.7	84.6	407	2	346.6	4.3	1.3
	Bettiah ...	2	523	784	61.7	2,458	3.3	95.5	343	6	261.5	5.4	6.5
	District Total ...	5	1,563	2,149	58.7	7,406	2.5	89.0	848	8	312.6	4.7	0.9
Munshar	Sadar ...	74	1,015	1,508	58.8	5,129	5.1	77.7	330	19	135.3	5.0	4.3
	Hajipur ...	14	623	1,266	38.1	2,816	2.3	89.4	147	3	39.5	4.5	3.9
	Siwan ...	2	910	1,345	69.0	2,587	1.6	76.8	306	11	453.6	2.6	5.3
	District Total ...	111	2,548	4,014	61.3	10,532	3.0	79.9	783	33	231.8	4.1	4.4
Darbhanga	Sadar ...	51	483	675	43.8	2,183	13.4	49.1	168	39	78.7	7.3	17.3
	Madhubani ...	14	405	744	40.4	1,227	7.0	79.4	176	13	208.6	3.0	7.3
	Samastipur ...	14	306	543	49.5	1,311	6.2	75.1	147	6	1.4.2	4.3	4.08
	District Total ...	81	1,191	2,002	44.2	5,921	10.3	63.9	491	46	130.4	5.1	9.7
	GRAND TOTAL ...	731	14,939	21,313	53.39	66,645	4.33	78.4	5,309	217	201.3	4.5	4.1
GRAND TOTAL FOR 1894 INCLUDING CLASS VI CASES.		731	14,433	27,499	60.3	75,173	3.7	80.7	5,485	218	261.6	4.07	3.9
GRAND TOTAL FOR 1893.		731	12,949	20,774	58.9	75,285	4.1	78.7	5,619	245	264.3	4.03	4.1

The above statement is in the same form as that given in paragraph 194 of last year's report, but while that statement included class VI cases, the present one does not do so in accordance with the orders in Government order No. 3250, dated 12th September 1894. For purposes of comparison, however, with last year's results, as well as with the results in cases before the Honorary Magistrates and Benches (see paragraph 174 below), I have had entered at the foot of the statement the total figures inclusive of class VI cases, and on these latter figures the following remarks are based.

159. Thus 73 Stipendiary Magistrates disposed of 18,433 cases, or an average of 251 cases against 254 in 1893.

As in previous years, the Dinapore Court shows the largest average per officer, viz. 1,162 cases. From the fact that only 686 witnesses were examined,

it is evident that most of the cases were petty nuisance cases in which no formal evidence was taken. The smallest number of cases decided was, as in the previous year, at Patna Sadar (Bankipore).

160. The average number of witnesses examined in each case was four, and only in three places more than 10 per cent. of the witnesses were detained for over two days, viz., Nawada (32·8), Darbhanga Sadar (11·07), and Samastipur (12·9). The high ratio at Nawada is explained to be due to the illness of the Subdivisional Officer, and to cases having to be reheard on his taking leave. No explanation has been given of the bad results at Darbhanga and Samastipur, but I observe from paragraph 8 of the Government Resolution on the Jail Administration for the past year that Darbhanga also shows particularly badly in the matter of long detentions in *kajal*. I have asked the present Magistrate to look into this matter and to favour me with a special report. It is very evident that supervision in criminal matters has been unusually lax there, owing no doubt in a great measure to frequent changes in the post of District Officer.

161. The largest number of remands for six times or more in A form cases also occurred at Darbhanga Sadar, where this happened in 30 out of 188 cases, or in nearly 16 per cent. of cases tried. Next comes Patna Sadar with 17 cases out of 167, or in 10 per cent. of cases tried; Dinapore, 8 cases out of 79; Buxar, Jahanabad, and Madhubani, with 13, 10, and 13 out of 170, 133, and 176, or in 7 per cent. of cases tried. The smallest percentages of such remands were at Bettiah, Motihari, Gopalganj, Siwan, Sasaram, Gaya, Patna City; also at Bhabhua, where, as in last year, there was not a single instance of the kind.

162. It will be observed that the total figures for the two last years do not present any striking variations. The number of Magistrates was the same in each year, with a slight falling off—some 3 per cent.—in the number of cases and persons tried. In results, however, there was, on the whole, a distinct all-round improvement. Thus the increase in the percentage of convictions (from 58·9 to 60·3) indicates greater care in conducting the preliminary examinations of complaints under section 200, Criminal Procedure Code, and in not allowing frivolous charges to be brought to trial. The percentage of witnesses detained over two days also fell from 4·1 to 3·7, while the percentage of orders upheld in appeal rose from 78·7 to 80·7. Again, in trials of Police A forms the percentage of cases which were remanded six times or more fell from 4·2 to 3·9. These results, though, as remarked above, they present no very striking contrasts, are yet all in the right direction.

163. I have been often struck, during inspections and whilst examining returns, with the very unequal results in different districts, and especially before different Magistrates, in the matter of convictions. In regard to cases which, under the law, are compoundable or dismissable in default, a Magistrate's hands are tied, and he cannot be held responsible if, in cases of the kind, his returns show a somewhat heavy percentage of acquittals or discharges. But in other cases, where the accused is acquitted or discharged only *after hearing evidence*, a heavy percentage of acquittals may usually be taken as an indication that complaints have, in the first instance, been too readily admitted, and without a sufficiently strict examination of the complainants under section 200, Criminal Procedure Code.

164. It also not unfrequently happens that one Deputy Magistrate's file becomes congested, and the entry "no time" finds frequent place on the order sheet; while the Magistrate sitting in the next Court has, for the time being, little to do.

165. I think that the above results are generally traceable to a lazy system frequently in vogue, under which the Magistrate who receives complaints distributes them to subordinate courts without more ado, without regard to the state of the different files, and leaving the subordinate officers to examine the complainants themselves and to decide whether the cases should be taken up, or summarily thrown out, under section 203.

166. But however well the first examination under section 200 may be conducted, still it may, and often does, happen that out of a batch of cases made over to a particular Magistrate or Bench, several of them turn out, on the day fixed for hearing, to be cases of a heavy nature, and remands are necessi-

tated; or they may all be compromised or dismissed in default, in which case the Court sits idle.

167. In order to properly regulate the work of the different courts in respect of the above matters, I have lately introduced the following system in the districts of this Division. It has been strictly laid down that the Joint-Magistrate (or, in his absence, the most experienced Deputy Magistrate) receives petitions and sifts them in the first instance himself by examining the complain-

* I have allowed in one district this examination to be recorded by one or other Subordinate Magistrate when the Senior Magistrate was overworked. But the examination is required to be a sifting one, and the case is then returned to the senior Magistrate, who decides whether it is to be proceeded with or not, and deals with it as described in the text.

ant under section 200, Criminal Procedure Code, and determines whether each case is to be taken up or not. If he decides that the case should be proceeded with, he fixes the date of first hearing and issues the necessary processes. On the date fixed he passes orders admitting compromises, dismissing in default, &c., and he then makes over only cases ready for trial, with complainants and witnesses present, to the Bench or other subordinate courts. He

has laid before him, on each day, immediately the courts open, a statement showing the part-heard cases with the number of witnesses in attendance before each court, and he can thus lay his finger on the courts to which the new cases ready for trial can be safely referred without fear of any file becoming congested or of any case having to be remanded for want of time. This system, which was introduced during the last quarter of the year, has been approved by all the District Officers, and if it is carried out efficiently I look for good results during the current calendar year.

168. I wish to add a few remarks here on the question of giving certain Deputy Magistrates at Sadar stations "territorial jurisdiction" over particular thanas, as well as on the system of relegating certain Deputies only to revenue work and certain others only to criminal duties. The "territorial" system is certainly not suited to any of the Bihar districts, and I cannot understand how it can be suited to any district where work is heavy and the District Officer is pushed hard to make the best and full use of the whole of his staff. The result of such a system, it seems to me, must be that we shall frequently find experienced Magistrates wasting their time over petty cases which could equally well have been tried by 3rd class Deputies or by Sub-Deputies; while, on the other hand, an inexperienced Subordinate Magistrate will not unfrequently find on his thana file important cases beyond his capacity. He may think himself capable of trying such a case, and, disliking to admit the contrary, may take it up and make a mess of it, and give rise to complications.

169. The fact is that the District Officer must be left to make the best use he can of the staff allowed him. At one end of the chain he has the Joint-Magistrate, or, if he has no Joint, one of his most experienced Deputy Magistrates to hear police reports (if the District Magistrate is on tour or unable from stress of work to do so himself), to receive and test criminal petitions and distribute them for hearing; and at the other end of the chain he has the Excise-cum-Income-tax Deputy Collector, the Butwara Deputy Collector, and the Treasury Officer, to whom criminal cases are not, as a rule, made over. Immediately he has a staff of Deputies in charge of the Road Cess, Land Registration, Land Acquisition, Stamp, Certificate, Nizarat and minor Revenue Departments. I differ entirely with the view that certain of these officers should be employed only on criminal work and certain others only on Revenue duties. They must all be made use of for either work, as the state of their files permits. The system of giving three or four Revenue Departments to Deputy A, in order to free Deputy B for nothing but criminal work, does not commend itself to me. Work, especially Criminal work, comes in fits and starts; and though A's work under such an arrangement might be fairly regular, B's will certainly not be so. It will generally, I think, be found a much better arrangement to give both A and B a fair share of revenue duties, and to fill up their spare time with criminal cases. In this way, and only in this way, can the District Officer be certain of getting a full share of work from each and every officer, and that suitable cases are made over to the suitable men.

170. The chief advantages, to my mind, of giving all the Deputies in the general line both Revenue and Criminal work so far as can be arranged are, first, that which I have already mentioned, viz. that the District Officer is then in the

best position to make full use, as work ebbs and flows, of his whole staff; and, *secondly*, and particularly, that the general education of Deputies is far better advanced in this way than if they are each kept to one particular groove. A Deputy who can be utilised equally for either criminal or revenue duties, who is broken both to saddle and harness, must be a more useful officer to Government than one who has a knowledge of only certain particular subjects; and this I consider, having regard to the frequent changes and transfers necessary in so large a service, a matter of no small importance; and it is a matter in regard to which I know that the Deputy Magistrate-Collectors as a body, looking at it from the point of view of their own interests, hold the same opinion as I do.

171. A necessary corollary to this is that the confinement of the Excise-cum-Income-tax Deputy Collector to only revenue work is not a judicious measure. There seems no reason why, during his tours in the interior, he should not be made of use in inquiring into *badmashi* cases, doing *chaukidari* work, and in other criminal duties. Such use of him would be particularly advantageous in the Sadar subdivision, where, as has been already pointed out by several officers, the need is often felt of an executive officer of the kind available for general camp duties. There can be no question but that the Excise Deputies themselves would be only too glad to be given mixed work of this description. Their complaint everywhere is that, under the present system, they have no chance of gaining any experience of work in the general line to which they all hope some day to revert. And I think that it will almost invariably be found, if enquiry be made, that they have plenty of spare time, during 10

* *Vis.*, when excise settlements are not going on. months out of the 12,* for the extra duties I propose to give them. I doubt if there are more than three or four districts in Bengal where the Excise Deputy Collector is not quite the lightest worked gazetted officer on the whole of the Collector's staff.

172. The result of trial in the Sessions Courts is given below:—

	DISTRICTS.							Divisional figures.
	Patna.	Gaya.	Shahabad.	Saran.	Champaran.	Muzaffarpur.	Darbhanga.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number of cases committed during the year.	58	45	51	45	50	35	42	326
Number disposed of ...	50	42	54	41	50	35	43	315
Number in which conviction obtained.	33	28	37	28	45	29	27	227
Of above in which sentence was modified or reversed by High Court.	...	...	4	5	2	4	2	17
Number of cases acquitted by Sessions Judge.	17	14	17	13	5	6	16	88
Percentage of convictions to cases disposed of for 1894.	66·0	66·6	68·5	68·2	90·0	82·85	62·7	72·06
Percentage of convictions to cases disposed of for 1893.	72·5	64·0	84·1	68·1	76·5	65·2	52·2	70·5

The percentage of convictions for the whole Division was 72 against 70·5 in the preceding year. The results were best in Champaran and Muzaffarpur and worst in Darbhanga, but the Magistrate explains that in two cases committed by the Subdivisional Officer of Madhubani, in which only two persons were charged, the Sessions Judge split them up into seven cases, and as the accused were acquitted on all of the charges, the percentage of acquittals was thus abnormally swelled. If it had not been for these cases, the percentage of convictions would have been 71 instead of 62.

173. The fines imposed and realised in criminal cases are shown below:—

1	DISTRICTS.							
	Patna.	Gaya.	Shahabad.	Saran.	Champaran.	Munshihpur.	Darbhanga.	Divisional Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Balance of fines due at the commencement of the year.	14,481 14 1	16,618 10 7	10,610 12 10	13,744 1 9	12,033 2 3	10,304 12 1	6,378 0 0	67,031 6 7
Amount imposed during the year.	23,818 4 6	24,237 2 0	18,030 5 0	19,103 2 3	14,008 10 3	23,496 7 6	12,940 0 0	1,37,886 5 6
Amount collected during the year.	16,281 12 10	17,345 13 6	14,410 0 6	16,713 8 10	10,949 9 3	15,139 14 8	2,576 0 0	99,536 10 11
Amount remitted or written off.	2,790 1 3	5,786 9 0	6,610 11 21	3,082 2 0	4,891 1 6	5,568 6 0	2,655 0 0	30,864 0 2
Balance of fines pending at the end of the year.	18,262 1 6	17,773 6 1	7,790 5 5	12,510 15 2	12,536 1 9	12,918 0 1	3,906 0 0	91,080 14 0

There is a falling off in the amount both of fines imposed and of fines collected as compared with the figures of the preceding year, and the outstanding balance has increased in all the districts, except Shahabad and Saran. The introduction of the new High Court Register (A1) of outstanding fines will possibly have some effect in bringing cases of the kind more prominently to notice, and so lead to better realisations; but I apprehend that the bulk of the outstanding arrears will on enquiry be found to be irrecoverable. The real fact is that there is not unfrequently considerable want of discrimination in the matter of imposing fines, especially among junior Deputy Magistrates. Thus I not unfrequently find unreasonably heavy fines imposed on low-caste labourers and petty cultivators—fines which cannot possibly be realised except by dribblets and with an amount of attendant hardship altogether disproportionate to the offender's deserts. In the second place the term of imprisonment awarded in default is frequently so light that the person fined prefers to undergo it and to run the chance of eventually evading payment of the fine. The principle followed should be to award such a term of imprisonment in default as will prove effective in inducing the person fined to pay the fine in preference to undergoing the sentence of imprisonment. If the first principle be carefully observed, there will be no hardship in this.

(ii) THE WORKING OF THE HONORARY MAGISTRATES AND BENCHES.

174. The work of Honorary Magistrates and Benches is shown in the following statement:—

DISTRICT.	Subdivision.	Number of Courts.	Cases disposed of.	Persons disposed of.	Ratio per cent. of person convicted to disposed of.	Number of witnesses examined.	Ratio per cent. of witnesses detained over two days to total number examined.	Ratio per cent. of decisions confirmed in appeal to total appeals.	Number of A cases disposed of.	Number remanded six times and more.	Average number of cases disposed per officer.	Average number of witnesses examined in each case.	Ratio per cent. of column 11 to column 10.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Patna	Sadar	5	516	607	70.3	190	1.33	66.18	13	.....	103.4	57	.....
	Patna City	44	2,003	2,005	87.7	912	3.28	48.14	34	2	421.68	45	8.38
	Barh	2	814	300	70.3	259	8.48	90.90	19	6	127	62	31.78
	Bihar	2	377	402	80.5	146	.08	80	20	1	188.5	1.28	5
Gaya	Dinapore	4	794	970	77.6	343	10.49	73.72	26	4	183.5	46	18.38
	Sadar	2	2,430	2,587	83.3	792	3	.....	50	.....	1,234.5	3	.....
	Nawada	1	22	23	21.7	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Arrungabad	2	282	225	10.4	261	4.8	89.6	4	.....	22	2.7	.....
Shahabad	Sadar	3	436	628	87.2	832	2.8	100	1	.....	121	1.9	.....
	Huzar	3	90	103	37.8	406	3.9	75	.....	.....	143.3	1.9	.....
	Sasuram	2	118	133	65.9	301	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	4.5	.....
	Bhumbua	1	98	133	25.5	114	.....	100	.....	.....	89	2.5	.....
Saran	Sadar	2	642	817	40.3	903	16.1	22.2	9	1	32.1	1.4	11.11
	Siwan	1	74	83	19.2	61	.....	.....	.....	.....	74	1.1	.....
	Gopalganj	1	10	10	50	41	.....	50	.....	.....	30	4.1	.....
	Sadar	1	158	180	8.4	210	13.8	100	.....	.....	184	1.9	.....
Champaran	Bettiah	1	76	116	38.8	237	2.1	100	.....	.....	70	3.1	.....
	Sadar	1	1,034	1,210	72.9	583	10.1	80	.....	.....	1,031	38	.....
	Sitamarhi	1	167	228	21.4	209	10.04	100	.....	.....	167	1.2	.....
	Hajipur	2	481	542	50.3	745	2.9	80	.....	.....	200.5	1.3	.....
Darbhanga	Sadar	2	2,428	2,764	89.4	2,201	1.04	33.8	1	.....	82.9	1.9	.....
	Madhubani	1	630	671	80.4	789	1.00	60	.....	.....	305.1	1.9	.....
	Banastipur	1	7	34	82.3	69	25	.....	.....	.....	7	8.5	.....
	Divisional Total	46.1	13,052	14,878	76.6	11,023	4.3	62.1	143	14	230.7	1.8	8.7
Divisional Total in 1893		40	15,213	17,304	74.07	12,380	5.5	65.6	104	5	320.3	1.8	8.66

It will be observed that the work of the Honorary Magistracy does not give the same indications of steady improvement as in the case of the Stipendiary Magistrates. On the contrary, there is a slight falling off in the matter of detention of witnesses, remands in A form cases and in results of appeals. On all these points the comparison is in favour of the salaried officers of Government.

175. The worst outturn of work was before the Champaran (Sadar) Bench, where of 189 persons accused only 8·4 per cent. were convicted. The inference is that a large number of charges were admitted which ought never to have been taken up, or that the enquiries were very carelessly conducted. The Aurangabad, Siwan, Nawada, and Sitamarhi Benches also show badly in this respect. As regards detentions of witnesses, the Samastipur Bench, and after it the Chapra and the Motihari Benches, exhibit the worst results.

176. The following statement compares the number of Honorary Magistrates' Benches and Honorary Magistrates sitting singly in the different districts on the 31st December in each of the two last years:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF BENCHES		NUMBER OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES		NUMBER OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES SITTING SINGLY	
	On 31st December 1893.	On 31st December 1894.	On 31st December 1893.	On 31st December 1894.	On 31st December 1893.	On 31st December 1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna	7	7	61	61	15	19
Gaya	6	5	47	45	1	1
Shahabad	7	7	58	55	4	4
Saran	4	4	22	28	.....	.....
Champaran	2	2	15	14	.....	.....
Muzaffarpur	4	4	41	42	.....	2
Darbhanga	6	4	73	46	.....	.....
Total	36	33	317	291	20	26

The total number of Benches thus shows a decrease of three as compared with the previous year, viz., one in Gaya and two in Darbhanga. This is due to the amalgamation of the Municipal Benches of Gaya, Darbhanga, and Madhubani with the regular Benches at those places. The large decrease in the number of Honorary Magistrates in Darbhanga is also due to the same cause. The increase of six Honorary Magistrates in Saran is owing to the appointment of additional Honorary Magistrates to strengthen the Siwan and Gopalganj Benches during the year.

177. I give below an epitome of the reports on the working of the Benches in the different districts:—

Patna.—With the exception of the Khagoul and Barh Benches, where absentees were numerous, the system continued to work, on the whole, fairly well. At the Patna and the Bihar Benches, the attendance was good, and a considerable amount of business was disposed of. The Bench which on the whole did best is the Jhowganj Bench in the Patna City, and I consider that the result is chiefly due to the industry and interest taken in his work by the President, Syed Sarfraz Husein Khan. The number (seven) and powers of the Benches remained unchanged, but several additional Honorary Magistrates were authorised to sit singly with second class powers.

Gaya.—The Magistrate, Mr. Macpherson, mentions with approval the assistance rendered by Mr. Halim, Babu Ram Lal Aginwar, and several other members of the Gaya (Sadar) Bench, and by Babus Ayodhya Prasad and Rajendra Prasad of the Tikari and Daudnagar Benches. Mr. Macpherson observes as follows:—"Generally speaking, there has been a deterioration in attendance, particularly in the extent to which Honorary Magistrates absented themselves without leave or notice."

"With reference to the views expressed by the Commissioner on the employment of Honorary Magistrates, contained in paragraphs 459-62 of his General Administration Report for 1893-94, I can do nothing more than to invite attention to the remarks quoted in paragraph 448 from my own report, showing the result of an attempt made by me to give more important cases to the Bench at Gaya in accordance with the views previously expressed by him. I have noticed that where such cases have been made over to the Bench, the result has been a great waste of time and energy in the recording of the most minute and frivolous details brought out in elaborate cross-examination of the witnesses. The Gaya Sadar Bench, however, merits much commendation for the very substantial assistance it has been in the disposal of public business."

Shahabad.—Mr. Marindin reports that, with the exception of the Buxar Bench, where dissensions among the Honorary Magistrates interfered much with their usefulness, the Benches have on the whole worked well. The services of the Honorary Magistrates have also been utilised in making enquiries under section 202, Criminal Procedure Code, prior to the issue of process. The cases ordinarily made over to the Benches are nuisance cases, assaults, criminal trespass, mischief and other minor cases under the Penal Code. Mr. Marindin continues as follows:—"The Benches are certainly useful in relieving the Stipendiary Magistrates of a number of petty cases, and they do a substantial amount of work in this way. The orders issued last year to employ Honorary Magistrates on more interesting cases have not been overlooked, but the average capacity of the Benches in this district is not high enough to make it safe to entrust them with more important cases than they get, and I think most of the Honorary Magistrates would prefer to be left, as now, to deal with cases of minor importance, than to have the responsibility of deciding graver issues. It is the dignity of the position which renders it valuable in their eyes rather than the work which it entails."

Saran.—During the year a new Bench with third class powers was established at Gopalganj, so that at the close of the year there were four Benches with 28 Honorary Magistrates. Mr. Slack makes the following remarks:—"The attendance of the Honorary Magistrates for all the Benches, on the whole, was fair; but in several instances the cases at the Chapra Bench had to be postponed for want of a quorum, and I regret that the European Honorary Magistrates set a very bad example as regards punctuality and omitting to give previous notice of inability to attend. I have, however, prepared a roster based so as to suit the convenience of each Honorary Magistrate, and probably the result will be more satisfactory. During the year 1895 no case will be made over to the Bench for trial till it is ripe for hearing. To avoid delay as much as possible, I have arranged that when a quorum is not present, one of the second class power Stipendiary Magistrates is with the Honorary Magistrates present to sit as a Bench and take up the cases in the file, and I have also arranged that the Bench shall always have a fixed courtroom at their disposal."

This last is an important point to which sufficient attention is not perhaps always paid.

Champaran.—There were two Benches of Honorary Magistrates in this district during the year, one at Motihari and one at Bettiah, the number of Honorary Magistrates attached to each Bench being seven. The Bench at Motihari was presided over by the special Sub-Registrar and exercised second class powers; that at Bettiah was presided over by the Rural Sub-Registrar of Bettiah and exercised third class powers. The Magistrate remarks as follows:—

"On receipt of a copy of your Report on the General Administration of the Patna Division for the year 1893-94, together with the Government Resolution thereon, I directed that more important cases should be made over to the Benches, but owing to

the irregularity in attendance on the part of the Honorary Magistrates and the necessity of preserving the *personnel* of the Bench throughout a trial, as well to the inexperience of the majority of the members, the order could not be fully carried out. The instruction, however, will not be lost sight of; and as the Benches improve their knowledge of law and procedure, and if they show a keener interest in their work, they will be entrusted with the trial of more important cases."

Muzaffarpur.—In this district there are four Benches, viz., at Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Lalganj, and Sitamarhi. With the exception of the Lalganj Bench, which exercises third class powers, the other Benches exercise second class powers. On the whole there was a slight improvement in the attendance of the Honorary Magistrates, although at Muzaffarpur and Lalganj 5 and 21 sittings respectively fell through owing to want of a quorum.

Darbhangha.—Towards the end of the year the Municipal Benches at Madhubani and Darbhanga were abolished, being amalgamated with the Regular Bench at each place. The number of Benches therefore at the close of the year was four against six in the preceding year. Mr. Tute makes the following remarks on the general working of the Benches:—"The work done by the Honorary Magistrates wholly consisted of nuisance and petty cases of assault and a few under the Cattle Trespass Act. The chief obstacles in giving them more important cases are, first, their irregular attendance, and, second, the rule that a case should be heard out by the same Magistrate. I hope to show an advance in Bench work during this year."

178. The attendance of Honorary Magistrates, taking the Courts in each district together, is given in the subjoined statement:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of times asked to attend.	Number of times attended.	ABSENCES		Total absence.	PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE, COLUMN 8 ON COLUMN 2.	
			With leave.	Without leave or notice.		1894.	1893.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patna	2,491	1,967	400	205	605	82	89
Gaya	1,149	746	83	321	404	61	76
Shahabad	1,242	957	118	167	285	77	78
Baran	942	577	109	266	365	61	75
Champaran	294	236	7	51	58	80	82
Muzaffarpur	2,662	1,998	215	449	664	76	74
Darbhangha	1,332	885	155	323	478	65	64
Total	10,052	7,365	1,087	1,772	2,859	73	78

Taking the Benches individually, the attendance was best in the case of the following Benches, viz., Sadikpur, Jhowganj, Bihar, Dinapore, Arrah, Jagdispur, Buxar, Hajipur, Bettiah, Revelganj and Roserah, and worst in the case of Khagoul, Nawada, Aurangabad, Chapra, Siwan, and Madhubani (Municipal Bench). This last after several years indifferent work has now been abolished.

179. I was able last year to report a general improvement in the attendance of Honorary Magistrates. This year I have to record the reverse. The percentage of attendance fell off in all the districts, except Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, the average of attendances for the whole Division being 73 per cent. as against 78 per cent. in 1893. During the present year (1895) I have had a roster prepared for the whole year for each Bench, copies of which have been sent to my office for approval, after being circulated to the different Honorary Magistrates for their consent and information. The District Magistrates have also been instructed to call for explanation in cases of default, and to bring to my notice, for report to Government, all persistent cases of the kind, and I propose to ask Government in such cases, as I have done in one instance lately, to strike off the defaulter's name from the list of Honorary Magistrates (unless he elects to resign).

180. But after all, as the system at present obtains, the matter resolves itself in but too many instances into a case of *driving*. And what we want, if the system is ever to do proper justice to itself and to be of the best use to the public, is not that the work done by any Honorary Magistrate should merely be the minimum necessary to save himself from disgrace, but that the inducement should be to render such full and willing service as Government and the public have a right to expect in return for the distinction bestowed. The only remedy for the present state of things is, as I have before pointed out, to make the office tenable for a term of years, renewable on approved good service, instead of, as at present, for life.

XVI.—REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS.

181. The number of offices open in each district during the year of report and the previous year was as follows:—

DISTRICTS.	Number of offices open in—	
	1894-95.	1893-94.
Patna	7	6
Gaya	5	5
Shahabad	6	5
Saran	8	8
Champanan	7	5
Muzaffarpur	8	7
Darbhanga	8	8
Total	49	44

Of the five new offices opened during the year of report, two in Champanan were opened at the request of the manager of an indigo concern for the registration of indigo sattas. These two offices were in existence only for about four months, and the number of sattas registered in them was 2,554.

182. The total number of documents registered in the several offices, and the average per office in each district during the year of report and the two preceding years, will appear from the table below:—

	Number of documents registered in—			Average per office in—		
	1894-95.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1892-93.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna	14,776	14,896	13,907	2,111	2,389	2,333
Gaya	7,729	7,068	7,999	1,545	1,531	1,600
Shahabad	14,021	16,537	14,181	2,337	3,107	2,836
Saran	26,871	23,501	22,378	3,234	2,938	3,136
Champanan	20,321	20,454	20,729	2,903	4,091	4,146
Muzaffarpur	36,868	27,849	27,414	4,482	3,978	3,916
Darbhanga	24,891	21,358	19,998	3,111	2,669	2,499
Divisional Total	143,459	130,698	126,686	2,970	2,970	2,946

It will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the number of documents each year in every district, except in Shahabad and Champanan, which show a decrease as compared with the previous year. The decrease in Shahabad occurs under heads (a) Sales, (b) Mortgages, and (c) Other leases. The falling off under (a) and (b) is attributed to bad crops of 1893-94, which the Collector thinks lowered the price of *gujasta* holdings and discouraged the money-lenders, most of whom were cultivators, to lend money on the hypothecation of *gujasta* holdings at the same high rate as in previous years; and the falling off under (c) is said to be due to a temporary stoppage of business in the Dumraon Raj, pending the issue of a probate and the grant of new powers of attorney to its servants after the death of the Maharaja in May 1894. The

decrease in Champaran is slight and is attributable to the survey and settlement operations in progress in that district, which led certain people to hold over transactions in land pending completion of those proceedings.

183. The largest number of documents registered in any one district was in Muzaffarpur, due mainly to the large planting interests in this district, and the smallest number was in Gaya, where the prevalence of the bhaoli system is the cause of the paucity of formal transactions in the transfer and leasing of holdings. It will appear from the figures given below that the work of the Registration Department has within the last decade increased in a far greater ratio in the four North Gangetic districts than it has done in the three districts south of the Ganges. It would be of interest if enquiry were made by the Registration Department into the reason of this phenomenon:—

DISTRICT.	1884-85.		1894-95.	
	Number of offices.	Number of documents registered.	Number of offices.	Number of documents registered.
1	2	3	4	5
Patna ...	7	11,287	7	14,776
Gaya ...	5	6,888	5	7,729
Shahabad ...	6	9,232	6	14,021
Saran ...	5	12,328	8	25,871
Champaran ...	3	8,801	7	20,321
Muzaffarpur ...	6	18,112	8	35,853
Darbhanga ...	6	11,897	8	24,891
Total ...	38	78,545	49	143,462

184. The total receipts and expenditure in each district in the year of report as compared with those in the previous year are shown below:—

DISTRICT.	1894-95.		1893-94.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5
Patna ...	Rs. 40,630	Rs. 11,087	Rs. 42,869	Rs. 11,051
Gaya ...	27,534	7,471	28,841	7,392
Shahabad ...	23,259	10,007	26,788	10,266
Saran ...	32,278	15,656	32,807	14,266
Champaran ...	20,818	11,838	24,206	11,498
Muzaffarpur ...	42,262	17,698	38,057	15,163
Darbhanga ...	28,313	14,419	27,716	14,080
Total ...	2,15,094	88,176	2,21,884	83,716

The decrease in most of the districts in receipts is due to the reduction in the scale of fees introduced during the year of report.

XVII.—CONDITION OF THE DIVISION AS REGARDS LAND AND THE LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

185. The total number of estates in the Division in the year of report was 63,829 against 61,815 in the previous year. The increase of 2,014 estates is due chiefly to partitions effected during the year.

186. The current demand was Rs. 82,22,868 against Rs. 82,06,064 in 1893-94. The demand of each class of estates during the past and the previous year was as shown below :—

	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Rs.	Rs.
Class I—Permanently-settled estates ...	77,58,617	77,58,865
" II—Temporarily-settled estates ...	2,17,295	2,10,870
" III—Estates held direct by Government ...	2,30,152	2,53,133
Total ...	82,06,064	82,22,868

187. The demands under classes I and III have increased by Rs. 248 and Rs. 22,981 respectively, while the demand under class II has decreased by Rs. 6,425, the result on the whole being a net increase of Rs. 16,804 against a net increase of Rs. 8,848 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 248 in class I is due chiefly to the revenue added to certain estates in Muzaffarpur on account of lands which had been acquired for the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi Railway having been restored to them, the abatement of revenue granted when the lands were acquired being now re-assessed on those estates. Under class II the decrease occurred in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Saran, and Muzaffarpur, and is due to new settlements at reduced jamas as well as to transfer of estates from one class to another. Under class III the net increase in the demand, amounting to Rs. 22,981, is shared by four districts, viz., Patna (Rs. 13,203), Gaya (Rs. 202), Shahabad (Rs. 5,741), and Muzaffarpur (Rs. 5,155), and is due partly to favourable resettlements, but mainly to the increase in the number of estates of this class caused by transfer from class to class. In Gaya it is also partly ascribed to the increased value of bhaoli produce in certain villages. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,320 under this class in Saran, which is ascribed to the resettlement of nine estates at reduced jamas, and to the transfer of a portion of island No. 31 to the district of Patna.

188. The current collections from all classes of estates amounted to Rs. 76,90,165 against Rs. 77,51,166 in 1893-94, showing a decrease of Rs. 61,001, the percentage of total current collections on the current demand being 93·5 against 94·4 in 1893-94. This falling off is due to the shorter collections of demands in all the three classes. Under class I (permanently-settled estates) the current balance amounted to Rs. 4,19,712, of which Rs. 3,64,730 are on account of estates in only two districts, viz. Patna (Rs. 1,65,250) and Shahabad (Rs. 1,99,480). In both the districts the explanation is that the balance is due for the March kist, and steps could not be taken for their realisation until after the year closed. The defaults at the March kist are attributed in both the districts to the late harvest of rabi and poppy crops, which formed the chief means of paying the Government revenue at this kist. The next heavy balance is in Muzaffarpur, where the Collector, Mr. Hare, explains that out of the balance of Rs. 23,802, Rs. 11,575 were collected on the 20th March but credited after the close of the year, being partly remittances received from other districts by remittance transfer receipts. In Saran, where the current balance is Rs. 17,629, Rs. 2,300 will, it is said, be recovered after the sales have been confirmed; Rs. 6,080 are due from estates which have been sold but in which appeals have been preferred; but the bulk of the balance is due from estates which defaulted at the March kist. In Champaran the greater portion of the current balance, Rs. 5,232, is due from the estate of the late Nasir Hossain in Saran, which is being brought under the Court of Wards. The percentage of current collections on current demand in each district was as follows :—

Patna	...	88·3
Gaya	...	99·5
Shahabad	...	86·7
Saran	...	98·5
Champaran	...	98·9
Muzaffarpur	...	97·5
Darbhangha	...	99·6

189. The current collections under class II (temporarily-settled estates) amounted to Rs. 1,76,911 against Rs. 1,81,589 in the previous year. This class of estates is subdivided into three classes, viz. (a) settled for periods with the proprietors, (b) private estates leased to farmers for periods, and (c) Government estates leased to farmers for periods, the current collections under (a), (b), and

(z) being (a) Rs. 88,633, (b) Rs. 1,864, and (c) Rs. 86,414, against Rs. 93,163, Rs. 2,261, and Rs. 86,165 respectively in the previous year. The falling off in collections is due to the falling off in the demand, as explained in paragraph 187 above. The current collections came up to the standard of 95 per cent., or exceeded it, in Gaya and Darbhanga, as regards estates (a), in Shahabad as regards (b), and in Champaran and Darbhanga as regards (c). In other districts there was a failure to collect up to the prescribed standard under one or more of the three heads.

190. The current collections of estates under class III (Government estates) amounted to Rs. 1,74,101 against Rs. 1,83,390 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 9,289. The current demand was collected in full in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. In the other districts the percentage of collections ranged between 35·1 and 72·8. In Patna, where it was 39·9 for estates managed for proprietors and 70·6 for estates owned by Government as proprietors, the collections were retarded on account of the failure of the bhadoi crops on the diara lands, owing to floods and diluvion. The late sowing of rabi and the consequent late harvesting are also said to have interfered greatly with collections. I cannot say that I am satisfied with this explanation, and I have requested the Collector to call for a detailed explanation from the general manager. In Gaya the percentages of the two classes of estates under class III were 63·6 and 72·8, the short collections being attributed to the collecting and supervising staff being for most part of the collection season occupied in the survey and kharapuri operations in progress in the Government estates, to indifferent bhadoi and rabi harvests, and other special causes. In Shahabad there is only one class of Government estates, viz. "Estates owned by Government as proprietors." The percentage of current collections on current demand in this district was 67·9. The indifferent collections are attributed to the poor rabi and sugarcane crops of the year, as well as to the general disorganisation caused by the prevalence of cholera and fever to a very unusual degree. In Saran the percentage of current collections for "Estates owned by Government as proprietors" was only 35·1. One reason given for this is the existence of a dispute regarding the boundary of a certain large diara estate with a neighbouring proprietor. But the chief reason appears to be that in a number of diara estates, in which there is an outstanding balance of Rs. 5,256, most of the rent is paid from the rabi crop and should not be shown as due until April, while in the Collector's returns it is shown as due in March. The Collector has been told to recast his returns in future.

191. The current and arrear collections together on account of all three classes of estates amounted to Rs. 81,55,708, or 93·3 per cent., against Rs. 82,19,733, or 93·8 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of the total collections on the current demand was 99·1 against 100·1 in 1893-94.

192. The remissions amounted to Rs. 18,751, of which Rs. 3,703 represent "Remissions of grace," Rs. 1,625 "Remissions of right," and Rs. 13,423 "Nominal remissions." Of the total of Rs. 18,751, Rs. 14,260 were granted in Gaya on account of class III estates, but is for the most part nominal, being due to a mistaken manner of treating *bhaoli* demands in the accounts. The Collector hopes that the mistake will be remedied by the introduction of the new Tauzi Rules.

193. The balances amounted to Rs. 5,71,318 against Rs. 5,22,090 in the previous year. They are distributed as follows against each class of estate:—

Class	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Rs.	Rs.
I	4,19,397	4,43,820
II	49,787	42,781
III	52,906	84,717
Total	5,22,090	5,71,318

The percentage of the total balance on the total demand was 6·5 against 5·9 in 1893-94 and 6·2 in 1892-93. Of the gross balance of Rs. 5,71,318, a sum of Rs. 5,45,706 was under recovery at the close of the year, and Rs. 25,612 were classed as doubtful and irrecoverable.

194. *Road and Public Works Cess.*—Out of a total gross demand of Rs. 31,24,055, a sum of Rs. 24,15,357, or 77·2 per cent., was collected (including the amount realised in advance in previous years), and Rs. 3,980 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 7,04,708, or 22·5 per cent., of the gross demand outstanding at the close of the year. The percentage of the total collections on account of both current demand and arrears to current demand was 96·1. The percentage of net balance on gross demand of the Division was 22·5 against 20·02 in the preceding year. It was least in Darbhanga (13·06) and highest in Saran (34·4). In the latter district the unsatisfactory result is due chiefly to the involved condition of some of the principal zamindars whose estates are let out on *zerpesghi*. The *zerpesghidars* cannot be called on to pay the Government demand, which rests upon the zamindars, the result being that the dues often cannot be realised until the Collector has been obliged to go through the process of advertising the estates for sale. The percentage of arrears is also high in Gaya, where it is 27·7 against 23·7 in the previous year. The large balance in this district is partly due to the failure of the 7 annas Tikari Raj to pay in about Rs. 14,000 of the final kist, and to errors in the accounts of the last revaluation proceedings which are in course of correction.

195. The revaluation of the Patna district, which was sanctioned in 1893-94, was commenced from the 5th February 1894, and was in progress during the year of report.

196. The revaluation of Darbhanga district, which was expected to be completed by the end of the year of report, is still unfinished, and will probably last for another six months.

197. *Remittance by money-orders.*—A sum of Rs. 2,50,935 was remitted by 27,685 money-orders for payment of land revenue and cesses during the year of report against Rs. 2,78,732 by 26,389 orders in the previous year. It will be observed that there has been an increase in the number of orders but a decrease in the amount remitted, the increase in the former being 1,296 and the decrease in the latter Rs. 27,797. In commenting on the figures for 1893-94 in my last report, I gave it as my opinion that the experiment had about reached the end of its tether, judging from the fact that the figures for that year were not dissimilar to those of five years previously (1889-90), when the number of money-orders issued was 25,832 and the amount covered Rs. 2,63,269. The results during the past year seem to confirm this view. I gave the reasons which, in my opinion, account for this in last year's report, and I need not repeat them here. The transactions with regard to the payment of rent to landlords by money-order show that during the year of report 2,788 orders, covering Rs. 56,658, were issued against 5,606 orders, covering Rs. 94,219, in the previous year. The decrease both in the number and value of money-orders issued for this purpose is thus very marked, and the more so when it is found that the number of such payments refused by the landlords has been considerably less both in actual number and percentage than in the preceding year. The fact no doubt is that both zamindar and raiyat prefer the long-established system of personal payments. The zamindar regards the new plan as interfering, as it no doubt does, with his prestige and influence over his raiyats; while the raiyats, on the other hand, are only too pleased to have their account explained to them by the village *amla*, and be satisfied that everything is right before they part with their money. The consensus of opinion among District Officers is that in Bihar the money-order system is only resorted to for the payment of rents in cases of dispute between the parties; and looking at the matter from this view, the fact that the system is losing ground is not a cause for regret.

198. *Operation of the Sale Law.*—Out of 6,571 estates and shares of estates which became liable to sale for non-payment of Government dues, 367, or 5·6 per cent., were actually sold. Of these 171 were whole estates and 196 shares. The revenue demand of the estates sold was Rs. 96,692, and the dues for which they were brought to sale amounted to Rs. 38,669. The amount realised by sale was Rs. 5,96,077, or about six times the Government revenue. Two whole estates with a revenue demand of Rs. 3,325 were purchased by Government for Re. 1 each. Sales were annulled with regard to 44 estates and 22 shares on appeals preferred to this Court. The largest number of

defaults occurred in Shahabad, Muzaffarpur and Patna, being 1,936, 1,418, and 1,021, respectively, but the sales actually effected in these districts numbered only 67, 88, and 71, respectively. These figures show that the law was administered with much leniency—a leniency the bad effect of which on the punctuality of payment is complained of by several of the Collectors. There can be no doubt but that the one improvement in the sale law which is urgently called for is an amendment of section 18. The Collector's hands are at present tied. He can only either sell the defaulter up, or let him go scotfree. What is needed is that the Collector should be allowed to adopt some intermediate course. As he is allowed to use his discretion in the matter of sale, there seems no reason why he should not be permitted to use it in the lesser matter of imposing fines (within certain prescribed limits) for default. If the late amendment Bill had been confined to this one point, it would probably have been accepted without opposition, and we should have had an easy solution, satisfactory to landlords and District Officers alike, of a much vexed question. The rest of the Act might have safely been left alone.

199. *Working of the Certificate Procedure.*—The total number of certificates filed during the year was 49,157 against 43,937 in the preceding year. The total number of cases disposed of during the year was 44,448, or 74·7 per cent. In 11,235 cases payment was made on issue of notice, in 22,672 cases on attachment of property, while the number of cases in which recourse to actual sale was necessary was 727. In 821 cases demands were paid on issue of warrants against the person. In 11 other cases the debtors were imprisoned. In seven of these cases the debts were paid, but in four cases the debtors had to be released without making payment.

200. *Grant for improvements in Government Estates.*—A total sum of Rs. 20,614 was expended under this head in the three districts of Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad, and Rs. 58 in Darbhanga. Among the items of expenditure may be mentioned Rs. 3,975 for constructing tanks and wells, Rs. 1,689 spent on irrigation and embankments, Rs. 9,957 on agricultural Public Works, and Rs. 6,051 on sanitary and other improvements.

201. *Settlements.*—The total number of cases for disposal during the year was 148; of these 88 were for settlement of estates belonging to Government, and 60 for estates belonging to proprietors. The number of cases disposed of was 67, viz. 2 original settlements, 29 resettlements, and 36 summary settlements. Besides these, seven cases were struck off, and the rest, 74 cases, were pending at the close of the year. The net increase of revenue obtained by the settlements and resettlements effected during the year amounted to Rs. 4,193. This does not include the settlements under the control of the Director of Land Records.

202. *Land Registration.*—There were 31,111 cases for disposal, of which 22,620 were disposed of, showing an increase of 1,476 cases over the figures of the preceding year. The survey and settlement proceedings in the districts of Muzaffarpur and Saran continue to bring to light a certain number of cases of neglect on the part of proprietors to file applications under section 42. As these are discovered the defaulters are dealt with under the punitive provisions of section 65. Reports of transfers of property received from Sub-Registrars and Civil Courts are now dealt with in all the districts in a systematic manner with a view to enforce the provisions of the law. The proceedings in the certificate department are also fruitful in bringing to light cases of default, and good use is now being made of the information obtained from this source.

203. The work of rewriting register D in the new form is well in progress in Muzaffarpur and Gaya, and special establishments have been lately sanctioned by the Board for the same purpose in the other five districts. I am arranging for the work in all these districts to be carried out on a contract or piece-work system instead of by special establishments paid by time, as has been the usual practice. The result, I hope, will be increased efficiency at a considerable saving in cost. The new register will, in all the districts, be prepared in English, in the order of the tauzi numbers borne by the estates, and will be supplemented by an alphabetical index for purposes of reference. These registers when completed will be invaluable in the acceleration of work in all the principal departments of the Collector's office. There will then

remain the C registers, which in all the districts require rewriting. The first point to settle is the best form of this register, and especially the order in which the estates in each district are to be entered in it. On this subject I have addressed the Board of Revenue recommending certain proposals made by the Collector of Muzaffarpur.

204. *Separate accounts.*—The number of separate accounts opened and closed during the year are noted below:—

		Opened.	Closed.
Under section 10, Act XI of 1859	...	1,095	79
Ditto 11, ditto	...	52	...
Ditto 70, Act VII (B.C.) of 1876	...	608	41
Total	...	1,750	120

205. The total number of separate accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 36,790 with a revenue demand of Rs. 21,78,806 against 36,063 with a revenue demand of Rs. 21,20,141 at the close of the previous year. Applications for the opening of separate accounts of 427 undivided shares, 17 specific shares, and 290 complex shares remained pending at the close of the year.

206. *Partition.*—The number of cases pending at the close of 1893-94 was 1,510, and the number instituted during the year of report being 264, the total number for disposal was 1,774. Of these 545 cases were disposed of, leaving 1,229 pending at the end of the year. There has been a reduction in the number of institutions during the past three years from 338 in 1892-93 to 327 in 1893-94 and to 264 in 1894-95. This is owing in a great measure to the orders discouraging institutions in the districts where the survey operations are going on, pending the conclusion of those operations, the object being to save the parties the cost of having their estates twice measured and a double set of maps and khasra papers prepared.

207. The remarks made in paragraph 229 of last year's report regarding the general improvement in the work of the Special Deputy Collectors employed in this Department still hold good. Particular attention is now being paid to the holding of local enquiries by these officers for the purpose of arranging the distribution of the property among the newly-formed estates, and of disposing of objections after personal inspection of the locality. This is a matter of great importance, as a mistake in the initial stage necessarily leads to much future complication; and one can almost invariably trace the great delay in long pending cases to the slipshod manner in which they were dealt with in their early stages, sometimes 10 and 20 years ago.

208. *Land Acquisition.*—Proceedings for the acquisition of 59 acres 2 roods and 21 poles of land under Act I of 1894 for Government, municipalities, railways and District Boards, as per details given below, were confirmed by the Board of Revenue during the year under report:—

For whom acquired.	Area of land acquired.	Cost of acquisition.
	A. R. P.	Rs.
Government ...	7 0 30	636
Municipalities ...	11 0 34	3,879
Railways ...	17 0 30	8,037
District Boards ...	24 0 7	6,339
Total ...	59 2 21	18,891

209. The Deputy Collector, Sone Canals Revenue Division, also acquired 2 acres 2 roods and 11 poles in eight cases at a cost of Rs. 200 for the construction of village channels and other purposes connected with the Irrigation Department.

210. *Advances.*—Out of a sum of Rs. 22,200 allotted to the Collectors for distribution during the year under the Land Improvement Loans Act, XIX of 1883, Rs. 15,300 were actually disbursed, viz. Rs. 15,000 in Gaya and Rs. 300 in Shahabad. Advances were not granted in other districts, as there were no applications for them.

211. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, XII of 1884, the amount allotted and the amount advanced are noted below:—

			Allotted. Rs.	Advanced. Rs.
Patna	...	...	500	.....
Gaya	...	...	2,500	2,500
Shahabad	...	...	5,000	1,005
Saran	...	...	4,500	2,127
Champaran	...	...	800	.....
Mazaffarpur	...	...	6,500	142
Darbhanga	...	...	6,000	6,000
Total	...	...	25,800	11,774

212. I am of opinion that advances by Government to raiyats in estates belonging to private owners should be made with great care and only after full enquiry, and, except in times of scarcity and distress, *only* for the purpose of substantial and visible improvements, such as the construction of wells and other works for irrigation, &c. For such objects advances cannot be made too freely. But I am not in favour of Government making advances in *ordinary years* (except to its own raiyats) merely for such purposes as the purchasing of cattle, implements, seed, &c., for we have no ready means of assuring ourselves that the money is really spent for the professed object, and that it is not wasted in marriage expenses, litigation and so on. Where advances have been freely made, as has occurred in some districts, for such purposes, it has almost invariably happened that the money has been squandered or used to purchase food to save the borrower from having to work. Large amounts have had eventually to be remitted, or have only been recovered with considerable difficulty and great hardship to the defaulters. What I think is that we should encourage real and lasting improvements *as much as possible*, but for the rest, until we are in a position to set on foot a comprehensive scheme of agricultural banks, we must let the raiyat go to his mahajan.

213. *Bengal Tenancy Act.*—The working of the various sections of the Tenancy Act in the Division during the two years 1893-94 and 1894-95 is shown in the table below:—

	1893-94.	1894-95.
1. Transfer of tenures voluntarily, section 12 (3) ...	1,276	918
2. Ditto by decree sale, sections 13 (2) and 14 ...	1	...
3. Ditto by succession, section 15 ...	7	5
4. Commutation of rent, section 40 ...	73	11
5. Appraisement of produce where rent is paid in kind, sections 69 and 70 ...	292	335
6. Registration of improvements ...	76	76
7. Certificates of Collectors as to acquisition of land for building and other purposes, section 84 ...	3	1
8. Notices of resumption of land by landlords, section 87 (2) ...	901	1,083
9. Applications made for a survey and record of rights under Chapter X ...	8	7
10. Local enquiries held by order of a Court, section 158 ...	10	15
11. Written permission to landlords to measure lands under section 90 ...	...	1

The marked decrease under section 12 (3) is due to the fact that notices are now not required to be served on landlords in cases of transfer of mere occupancy rights or of fractional interests of tenants.

214. — The falling off in the number of “commutation of rent payable in kind” occurs entirely in Gaya. The Collector, Mr. Macpherson, points out that as a matter of fact both landlords and tenants in that district prefer the bhaoli system, which is the natural outcome of its physical features, and that the applications filed are only an indirect means of obtaining settlement of disputes which it is the function of the Civil Court to decide. A full report on this subject was submitted to Government in this office No. 68R., dated 6th November 1893.

215. The increase under the head “Appraisement of produce when the rent is paid in kind” is due to there having been a larger number of such applications in Gaya, where the bhaoli system extensively prevails. Resort is had to this procedure only in cases of dispute either between landlords and tenants, or among the co-landlords themselves.

216. Of the 1,083 “notices of resumption of land by landlords,” 352 and 699 belong to Saran and Champaran, respectively, against 1 in Shahabad, 26 in Muzaffarpur, and 5 in Darbhanga. The prevalence of these cases in Champaran was explained in paragraph 232 of last year’s report. The increase during the past year in Saran has not been explained by the Collector. He will be asked to do so.

217. Of the 7 applications made for a survey and record of rights under Chapter X, 5 were in Shahabad and 2 in Saran.

218. *Relations of landlords and tenants.*—In the north-east of the Darbhanga district there were somewhat serious disputes between Raja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur and his raiyats, which led to the committal to the Sessions of some of the Raja’s servants on charge under sections 379, 148, 325, Indian Penal Code. The case ended in acquittal, but the fact of the existence of the dispute is not questioned. Mr. Macpherson, the Collector of Gaya, remarks as follows:—

“There was no general question which led to differences between landlords and tenants during the year either in the district as a whole or on any considerable individual estate. As usual, however, strained relations existed in particular villages, but there are certain zamindars who have acquired so great an influence over their tenants that they are able to behave very exactly towards them without the risk of their complaining.”

The past year does not present any unusual features in regard to this question. Judging from the fewness of cases of open rupture, the relations of landlord and tenant may be said to be on the whole of a peaceful nature.

219. *Cadastral survey operations in Bihar.*—In Gaya the survey and settlement of the Tikari Ward’s estate continued in full swing. In the Tikari estate the total number of villages to be dealt with is 542 with an area of 387 square miles. Of these, 441, with an area of 319 square miles, had been both surveyed and *khanapuried* up to the close of the preceding year, and 82 villages, with an area of 55 square miles, were similarly dealt with during the year under report. The attestation work was begun in the estate during the year, and carried out in 434 villages with an area of 313 square miles, and the draft record was published in 316 of these. Advantage was also taken of the presence of the professional survey party to bring under survey and settlement 28 Government estates comprising 111 villages, which had not been surveyed or settled for a considerable period. Of these, 108 villages, covering an area of 67 square miles, were traversed before the close of the year, and 88 of them were cadastrally surveyed.

220. In Muzaffarpur the outturn of work during the year is noted below:—

		Villages.	Fields.	Sq. miles.
Surveyed	...	1,654	1,795,905	1,217
Khanapuried	...	2,009	2,414,341	1,455

The survey and record-writing of the district has almost been completed, leaving only 450 square miles for the next field season. The Settlement Officers attested the record of 712 villages covering an area of 376 square miles. During the recess, from May to October 1894, the officers were employed in disposing of case-work and copying, comparing, and preparing indexes of the records of villages which had been attested.

221. In Darbhanga the Bihar Cadastral Survey Party traversed 518 square miles in the west of the Madhubani subdivision.

222. The following table shows the work done during the year in Champaran:—

		Sq. miles.
Traverse survey	...	176
Cadastral survey	...	1,101
Record-writing	...	673
Attestation	...	361
Draft publication	...	379
Final publication	...	379

Besides the above, 334 boundary disputes were instituted during the year and 283 were disposed of. Three hundred and four cases for the settlement of fair rent were instituted, of which 188 were decided.

223. In Saran the following work was done during the last survey season:—

		Villages.	Fields.	Sq. miles.
Survey	...	1,960	810,717	549
Khanapuri	...	1,229	776,572	527

XVIII.—ATTACHED ESTATES, INCLUDING COURT OF WARDS.

224. There were, at the close of the previous year, 17 estates under the management of the Revenue authorities in this Division, and during the year of report two new estates, viz., (1) that of the sons of the late Nawab Amir Ali of Barh, and (2) the Maghra estate in Bihar, were taken in charge. Thus there were 19 estates under the management of the Revenue authorities at the close of the year of report.

225. The estate of the late Nawab Amir Ali of Barh was taken in charge under Government order No. 5529L.R., dated 11th December 1894, on the application of his sons, Maulvis Syud Ashrafuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur, Afzaluddin Ahmad, and Mr. Ashanuddin Ahmad, c.s., under section 6(e) of Act IX (B.C.) of 1879, as amended by section 3 of Act IV of 1892, they having been declared, on their own application, to be disqualified to manage their estates.

226. The Maghra estate was taken in charge under the Board's order No. 139A., dated the 6th February 1895, on the death of its proprietor, Babu Mohadeo Prashad Singh, leaving a minor son, named Rajkishore Proshad Singh, now aged a year and a few months.

227. The total rent and cess demand of the 19 estates realisable during the year amounted to Rs. 29,63,635, i.e., Rs. 15,29,954 arrear and Rs. 14,33,681 current. The collections amounted to Rs. 13,16,150, and the remissions sanctioned during the year to Rs. 2,49,854, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 13,91,511 unrealised at the close of the year, the percentage of total collections on current demand being 91·8.

228. The whole of the Government demand of revenue and cesses due from these estates, amounting to Rs. 4,03,648, was realised during the year; and out of Rs. 83,864 due to superior landlords for current and arrear demands, Rs. 76,997, or 91·8 per cent., were paid, leaving a balance of Rs. 6,741 still due at the close of the year. The bulk of this balance, amounting to Rs. 5,583, is due by two estates, Mobarak Hussain's in Saran and Paigumberpur in Darbhanga, and could not be adjusted owing to the confused state in which the accounts were left by the late proprietors.

229. The total receipts of all the estates, including opening balance, interest on Government securities, debts recovered, &c., amounted to Rs. 21,02,709, and the total expenditure to Rs. 18,96,382, of which Rs. 4,56,950 were on account of debts paid, Rs. 2,63,441 on account of management charges, Rs. 2,50,100 for maintenance of proprietors and their families, Rs. 1,27,147 were expended on improvements, and Rs. 3,18,099 on miscellaneous expenses, which include Government rates, municipal and income taxes, investments and suspense accounts.

230. The debt due to Government by the Deo estate amounted to Rs. 4,10,113 at the beginning of the year, and the interest which accrued during the year amounted to Rs. 18,290. Out of the total sum of Rs. 4,28,703, Rs. 38,179 were paid during the year, of which Rs. 19,685 were on account of principal and Rs. 18,494 interest. The debt could not be further reduced during the year of report, as, owing to unfavourable harvests, the time was not considered by the Collector propitious for putting up any of the estate villages for sale during the year; and, although this has since been done, the upset prices, except in a few minor cases, could not be obtained. I have asked the Collector what he proposes, under the circumstances, should now be done.

231. The education of the minors was well looked after during the year and proper care was taken of their health.

232. The condition of the tenantry on estates under direct management continued generally satisfactory.

XIX.--EXCISE.

233. The revenue under this head again shows an increase, the total excise revenue in the year of report being Rs. 26,44,363 against Rs. 26,33,379 in 1893-94 and Rs. 24,91,128 in 1892-93, thus showing an increase of Rs. 10,984 and Rs. 1,53,235 over the two preceding years respectively.

234. I find that this result is more than accounted for by the large increase under one head, viz., "Country spirit," which alone gave an increase of Rs. 59,570. There has been an increase also under each of the heads "Opium," "Charas," and "Miscellaneous" of Rs. 3,288, Rs. 971, and Rs. 218, respectively, the remaining heads showing a total decrease of Rs. 53,063.

235. The increase under the head "Country spirit" was obtained in all the districts, except Champaran, where it showed a decrease from Rs. 1,20,677 to Rs. 1,10,069, or of Rs. 10,608. This falling off is, however, more nominal than real, being mainly attributable to the fact that the advance fees of most of the outstills were credited into the treasury before the close of the previous year. It is also partly due to the abolition of an outstill during the year of report. The general explanation of the increase in the other districts is that the taste for cheap distilled liquor is gradually superseding that for *tari*, the revenue from which has fallen off during the year of report from Rs. 5,86,355 to Rs. 5,71,778, or by Rs. 14,577. One reason for this seems to be that date and palm juice is not available in all seasons of the year. In Gaya the weak beverage known as *khasia* liquor is manufactured at the distillery and sold at a price only slightly higher than that obtained in outstills, the ordinary price being 4 pice a quart bottle. In the first year of the introduction of this liquor (1893-94) the total quantity of liquor passed out rose to 24,584 gallons London-proof from 14,360 gallons in the previous year, and during the year of report it has again risen to 28,153 gallons. The low cost at which a "skinfull" of this liquor can be had is said to make it a dangerous competitor of *tari*. I am inclined, however, myself to think that the lately introduced tree-system has a good deal to do with the falling off in the *tari* revenue.

236. The increase of Rs. 3,288 under the head of Opium has occurred simultaneously with a severe fever epidemic. Possibly the medical evidence given before the late Royal Commission has come to the ear of the native *kabirajes* and their patients.

237. The decrease of Rs. 53,063 is made up almost wholly by the falling off under two heads, viz. Ganja (Rs. 38,231) and Tari (Rs. 14,577). The latter has been noticed above. Under the head of Ganja the decrease occurs in five districts, viz. Patna (Rs. 19,143), Gaya (Rs. 3,726), Saran (Rs. 7,835), Champaran (Rs. 8,995), and Darbhanga (Rs. 2,177). The decrease is generally attributed to a falling off in consumption due to the failure of the crop in Rajshahi and the consequent rise in price, to say nothing of the bringing into use of a certain quantity of old ganja, which would, under the rule, have been destroyed, but which nevertheless had to be issued to consumers, unsuited though it was to their taste. In Shahabad the revenue was kept up to the former figure by the demand of the drug from the North-Western Provinces, to which large exportations were made from this district, while the increase of

Rs. 3,061 in Muzaffarpur is attributed to the influx of a number of employes addicted to its use from the North-Western Provinces in connection with the survey and settlement operations.

238. During the year under report a private distillery for the manufacture of rum and rectified spirits was licensed to Mr. Edward J. Lacey, Manager of the Sugar Refinery at Sakri in Darbhanga. By the end of the year the Manager exported to the Calcutta Custom House 8,282 gross gallons of spirit, chargeable with Rs. 57,680 as duty, at Rs. 5 per gallon London-proof. The distillery is expected to do in time an extensive business.

239. The following figures show the number of persons arrested during the last two years for offences against the Excise and Opium laws:—

DISTRICT.	Number.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.
Patna	137	122
Gaya	115	67
Shahabad	59	50
Saran	76	66
Champanan	150	69
Muzaffarpur	113	75
Darbhanga	105	52
Total	755	501

There was a falling off in all the districts, notably in Champanan, Darbhanga, Gaya, and Muzaffarpur. Frequent changes of officers and want of energy on the part of the detective staff are, I fear, the real explanation, though one Collector (Gaya) attributes the result to exemplary sentences in the past.

240. The figures below show the number of prosecutions for drunkenness in the municipalities in each district during the last two years:—

DISTRICT.	1893-94. 1894-95.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.
Patna	637	449
Gaya	100	87
Shahabad	97	152
Saran	98	140
Champanan	7	6
Muzaffarpur	175	85
Darbhanga	95	67
Total	1,209	986

The increase in these prosecutions in Shahabad and Saran is attributed to greater activity on the part of the police. There seems no reason to suppose that there has been any sudden improvement in morality in the other districts, and the only inference is that the municipal police there have been more than usually lethargic.

XX.—STAMPS.

241. The total revenue derived from the sale of stamps and court papers during the year under report was Rs. 20,62,830 against Rs. 20,70,584 in 1893-94 and Rs. 20,20,551 in 1892-93, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,754 as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of Rs. 42,279 as compared

with the year 1892-93. The following statement shows the revenue derived from the sale of each kind of stamp in the year of report and the previous year:—

DESCRIPTION.	1892-94.	1894-95.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Court-fees ...	13,48,896	13,77,379	28,483	.....
Stamps for copies ...	1,02,755	1,03,595	840	.....
Impressed sheets ...	5,54,995	5,19,945	.....	35,050
Receipt stamps ...	17,165	17,484	319	.....
Notarial ...	88	76	.....	12
Hundi ...	20,467	18,168	.....	2,299
Court papers ...	26,221	26,183	.....	38
Total ...	20,70,584	20,62,830	29,642	37,396
				Net 7,754

Unlike last year, when there was a diminution, there has been an increase during the year under report of sale of court fees (judicial) stamps. In 1892-93 sales of these stamps yielded a revenue of Rs. 13,54,409, in the year following the sales fell off to Rs. 13,48,896, but in the year of report the revenue again rose to Rs. 13,77,379, showing a net increase of Rs. 28,483 and Rs. 23,970 respectively over the two previous years. The largest increase occurred in Muzaffarpur, where it amounted to Rs. 31,968, and the largest decrease was in Shahabad, amounting to Rs. 9,141. The increase in Muzaffarpur is mainly due to stamps to the value of Rs. 20,946 having been bought in one case for a certificate of administration. The survey and settlement operations are also said to have contributed to the increase both here and in Champaran (Rs. 7,003). There was an increase also in Patna (Rs. 4,937) and Darbhanga (Rs. 7,629), due in both districts to the institution of a larger number of title suits during the year. The falling off in Shahabad is attributed to a temporary cessation of suits during the year of report in the Dumraon Raj estate pending the completion of mutation proceedings after the late Maharaja's death. There was a decrease also in Gaya (Rs. 6,274) and in Saran (Rs. 7,639), owing to a less number of civil suits of higher value having been instituted during the year in each district. The revenue from impressed sheets (non-judicial) on the other hand shows a net decrease of Rs. 35,050. The largest decrease, amounting to Rs. 14,337, occurred in Shahabad, where there were fewer bonds executed during the year owing to a fair outturn of crops which obviated the necessity of contracting mortgage loans. The same satisfactory explanation is given of the falling off in Patna (Rs. 1,205), Champaran (Rs. 11,541), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 11,544), and Darbhanga (Rs. 3,174). The Collector of Champaran further states that transactions of this kind fell off owing to the survey and settlement operations in progress in his district, but he does not explain how he arrives at this result. The only districts which show an increase of receipts from impressed non-judicial stamps are Saran and Gaya, the increase in them being Rs. 6,438 and Rs. 311 respectively. The Collector of the former has not given any reason for the increase, except that there were more deeds executed during the year. Mr. Macpherson, of Gaya, attributed the small increase in his district partly to the grant of more arm licenses, and partly to the increase in the number of revenue agents and muktears in Gaya, and the consequent sale of a larger number of certificate stamps. The small increase of Rs. 319 under the head "Receipt stamps" is shared by 11 the districts, except Gaya and Champaran. The falling off of Rs. 2,299 in the sale of "Hundi stamps" is shared by all the districts, except Gaya, where there has been an increase of Rs. 275. The decrease is ascribed generally to dulness of trade and to the increased popularity of the money-order system. The increase of Rs. 275 in Gaya is said to be due to the establishment of a loan office there during the year.

242. There were 452 cases of unstamped or insufficiently stamped documents detected by the Civil Courts and the Revenue authorities during the year

of report against 488 cases detected in the preceding year. The amount of duty and penalty realised was Rs. 4,991 against Rs. 5,358 in 1893-94.

243. The number of prosecutions instituted for breaches of the stamp law was 69, in which 77 persons were brought to trial against 93 cases, in which 104 persons were brought to trial in the preceding year. Of the 77 persons brought to trial during the year of report, 72 were convicted and 5 were acquitted. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 794. I observe that no rewards were paid in any district. The attention of the District Officers will be called to this matter.

244. During the year of report stamps worth Rs. 575-15 disappeared from the Darbhanga treasury. The stamp muharrir was prosecuted and sentenced under sections 409, 465, and 408 of the Indian Penal Code to five years' rigorous imprisonment by the Court of Sessions, but he was acquitted by the High Court on appeal. The value of stamps misappropriated was, however, realised from the treasurer, and he was at the same time dismissed for general incompetency.

XXI.—INCOME-TAX.

245. The following statement compares the financial results of the last two years in this Division:—

District.	1893-94.				1894-95.			
	Number of persons finally assessed.	Final demand.	Collection.	Percentage of collection on demand.	Number of persons finally assessed.	Final demand.	Collection.	Percentage of collection on demand.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.			Rs.	Rs.	
Patna	1,868	67,251	67,176	99·8	2,031	74,288	74,288	100·
Gaya	2,373	65,266	61,748	94·6	2,651	68,891	68,891	99·7
Shahabad	1,424	39,086	38,101	97·4	1,480	39,535	38,870	98·4
Saran	2,747	76,362	74,561	97·6	2,777	76,030	74,008	97·4
Champaran	1,596	43,901	42,901	97·7	1,033	41,256	39,816	96·5
Muzaffarpur	2,398	64,543	62,786	97·3	2,428	64,514	62,025	96·1
Darbhanga	2,373	63,763	60,624	95·07	2,303	62,725	57,221	91·2
Total	14,980	4,10,106	4,07,882	97·3	15,301	4,26,239	4,14,979	97·4

The statement shows a total increase of 351 assesseees and of Rs. 7,135 in the final demand and a slight improvement in the percentage of collections.

The increase in the number of assesseees occurred in all the districts, except Shahabad and Darbhanga. Gaya shows the largest increase of 238 persons against an increase of 159 persons, mostly under Part IV. Patna and Muzaffarpur come next with increases of 49 and 41 respectively.

The final demand increased in four out of the seven districts, i.e. in Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, and Saran, the increase being Rs. 11,849; the other three districts, i.e. Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, showing a decrease of Rs. 4,714.

There was therefore a net increase of Rs. 7,135 in the Division during the year under report, or of nearly 2 per cent. The largest increase was in Patna and Gaya, being 10·4 and 5·6 per cent. respectively. The largest decrease was in Champaran, and is due to the fact that in the preceding year one assessee's tax was temporarily enhanced from Rs. 723 to Rs. 4,516 on account of his having received accumulated interest of above two lakhs from one of his debtors, but it was again reduced to Rs. 729 during the year of report. The decrease in Darbhanga is said to be partly due to the transfer to other districts of the assessment against several assesseees. But it is certain that the work there was not well done, and the Deputy Collector has been called to account.

The collections amounted to Rs. 4,14,979, or 97·4 per cent., on the final demand. The percentage of collections on the final demand reached the prescribed standard of 95 per cent. in all the districts, except Darbhanga, which fell short of it by 3·8. It will be observed that collections were best in Patna and Gaya, where there was also the largest increase in the final demand.

246. The outstanding balance on account of tax, penalties, and costs at the close of the year under report amounted to Rs. 18,051, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur showing the largest balance, principally due to the late disposal of objections and to late assessment.

247. The population of the Division being 15,793,854, the average incidence of the tax was Re. 1 to every 37 persons against 37 persons in the

previous year. In the several districts the average number of persons assessed to each rupee of tax was as follows:—

Patna	...	...	24	against	26	in the preceding year.		
Gaya	...	...	31	"	33	"	"	"
Shahabad	...	...	52	"	53	"	"	"
Saran	...	...	82	"	83	"	"	"
Champan	...	...	46	"	42	"	"	"
Muzaffarpur	...	...	42	"	42	"	"	"
Darbhang	...	...	44	"	44	"	"	"

As in the preceding year, the incidence was highest in Patna, being Re. 1 to every 24 persons, and lowest in Shahabad, where it was Re. 1 to every 52 persons.

248. The following statement shows the number of objections filed during the year 1894-95 as compared with those of the preceding year:—

District.	1893-94.				1894-95.			
	Filed.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Percentage of objection to assessment.	Filed.	Disposed of.	Pending.	Percentage of objection to assessment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Patna	200	200	...	10.5	118	118	...	5.7
Gaya	775	770	5	32.7	1,028	1,028	...	35.08
Shahabad	185	181	4	12.3	196	196	...	12.9
Saran	388	387	1	14.1	412	434	8	15.5
Champan	200	196	4	12.5	220	220	...	13.3
Muzaffarpur	375	375	...	15.7	265	265	...	10.6
Darbhang	465	416	39	19.08	399	368	11	16.5
Total	2,887	2,836	51	17.3	2,668	2,649	19	16.5

Of the total number, 2,668, filed during the year of report, 1,801 relate to the areas selected in the different districts for revision during the year under report, and 867 to the areas in which the previous year's assessments were adopted.

As in the previous year, Gaya shows by far the highest percentage of objections to assessments. The large number of objections and the large proportion of successful objections in Gaya appear to me to be due to two chief causes, viz., (a) the system of serving every assessee with a special notice in form L, and thus bringing his liability prominently to each person's notice in good time, and (b) the fact that the district of Gaya is already, as compared with the other Bihar districts, somewhat heavily assessed. I have noticed this matter fully in my Income-tax Report. The percentage of successful objections in Gaya was also very high, viz. 45.6 against 21.4 per cent. in the previous year. Over-zeal on the part of the assessor, no doubt, had something to do with this, but at the same time the Collector notices that the percentage was higher in the cases from the unrevised than from the revised areas, which points to the fact of the previously high assessment being a principal factor in the result.

In Darbhanga and Saran the percentages of successful objections were also high. In Darbhanga the cause is probably due to bad work generally in the department, and in Saran to cause (b) above.

249. Penalties to recover arrears of tax imposed in each district during the last two years were as shown below:—

District.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	251	18
Gaya	2,703	1,740
Shahabad	182	197
Saran	404	503
Champan	182	706
Muzaffarpur	1,574	1,195
Darbhang	812	663
Total	6,108	5,022

250. Coercive measures were resorted to in all the districts of the Division, particularly in Gaya and Muzaffarpur, as in the previous year. The reasons given for this in last year's report still appear to hold. It is satisfactory to find that in Patna, where collections were best, coercive measures were least resorted to.

251. The unpopularity of the tax is as great as ever, but the assesses pay it, without open complaint, as a necessary evil.

XXII.—MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS.

252. As reported in previous years, in the native bazars and among the people themselves, the copper coins in use are *lohia* or Gorackpuri pice. Government copper coin is received only from the post office and municipalities and from the public in payment of Government dues. The value of the Gorackpuri pice varies in the different districts and at different seasons. During the past year its exchange value in Gaya was about the same as in the previous year, viz. from 96 to 108 per rupee, while in other places it ranged from 104 to 112.

253. Currency notes to the value of Rs. 28,02,195 were received from the public in payment of Government dues, and of Rs. 16,21,750 in exchange for silver, against notes to the value of Rs. 33,87,855 in payment of public dues, and to the value of Rs. 18,39,805 in exchange for silver received in the previous year. The value of currency notes issued to the public in payment of Government dues and in exchange for silver amounted to Rs. 27,39,810 and Rs. 18,75,715 against Rs. 25,14,590 and Rs. 18,99,550 respectively in the previous year.

254. There were seven prosecutions under the Metal Tokens Act—all in the district of Champaran. The transactions of the Post Office Savings Banks and payment and issue of money-orders will be found in section XXXII of this report.

XXIII.—RAILWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS.

255. The working of the portion of the East Indian Railway in the districts of Patna and Shahabad was satisfactory. Among the improvements which were made on the Company's lines in these districts may be mentioned—

- (1) Two latrines were built, one at Mokameh for railway passengers, and the other at Bankipore for menial servants of the Company.
- (2) Arrangements were made for supplying filtered water to carriages and passengers at Dinapore.
- (3) A Protestant Church was opened at Dinapore for the use of the Company's servants.

256. There were 22 railway accidents in the Patna district during the year against 32 in the previous year. In these 17 persons were killed, the other 5 being cases of suicide. In the Shahabad district there were 14 railway accidents during the year, in which 7 persons were killed. In each case it appears to have been the victim's own fault. Crossing the line in front of trains and jumping out or trying to get into trains in motion were the causes of all the accidents involving loss of life.

One native driver was punished judicially.

PATNA-GAYA RAILWAY.

257. No steps have yet been taken for improved accommodation of third class passengers to meet the pressure during pilgrimage seasons. Complaints of want of punctuality in the running of trains still continue, and the mails for Calcutta, as noticed last year, are still detained at Bankipore for about four hours. A new railway station was opened at Tehta, between Mokhdumpur and Jahanabad, towards the close of the year.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN AND TIRHUT STATE RAILWAYS.

258. Three persons were killed and two were wounded by railway accidents in the Muzaffarpur district, and there were six accidents in which lives were lost in the Darbhanga district. The most serious of these occurred at Dulsinghsarai on the 19th October, in which three persons were killed (or died soon afterwards from their injuries) and 11 others were wounded. The accident was caused by a collision between a passenger and a ballast train, owing to negligence on the part of the station master and pointsman, both of whom were convicted and punished under section 101 of the Railway Act. Another of

the accidents was due to the negligence of a gateman, who was punished departmentally, the evidence being insufficient for a criminal prosecution. No accidents are reported from Champaran or Saran.

259. The Magistrates of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga still complain of the insufficient accommodation for third class passengers during times of large gatherings, of want of punctuality in the running of trains, and of the insufficient arrangements for the supply of drinking water at some of the stations during the hot weather. I recognise the fact, however, that general complaints of this kind are not perhaps quite fair to the management, and I am asking the District Officers in future to bring to the notice of the Agent and Chief Engineer any instances of the kind which require attention. So far as my own experience goes, the Railway authorities are always ready to meet all reasonable demands as far as lies in their power.

260. During the past year the Laheria Serai station at the civil headquarters of the Darbhanga district has been enlarged and improved. The want of a waiting-room is, however, complained of, and such a room is no doubt very much needed for the accommodation of the numerous first and second class passengers attending the different courts and Government offices at that station. A new station was opened at Turki on the Hajipur section during the year.

261. The following statement shows the results of the working for the past eight years of the joint undertaking, the Bengal North-Western and Tirhut State Railways having been worked independently up to the 1st July 1890 and as one undertaking by the Company since that date. It will be seen that the amalgamation has effected a considerable reduction of expenditure, the mean working ratio for the three years prior to the amalgamation in 1890 having been 54·7 per cent., whilst for the subsequent four years the ratio has been reduced to an average of 41·5 per cent.:—

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gross earnings ...	35,66,957	40,16,826	41,08,400	46,01,591	49,66,188	51,23,939	52,95,376	55,59,547
Working expenses ...	31,34,227	32,29,100	30,70,289	30,23,338	19,88,347	20,97,870	22,87,437	23,23,800
Net earnings ...	15,32,730	17,87,726	10,38,110	15,78,253	29,77,841	30,26,069	30,07,939	32,35,747

262. Both the passenger and the goods traffic during the past year show a satisfactory advance over the results of 1893, as will be seen from the following figures:—

YEARS.	Coaching traffic receipts.	Goods traffic receipts.	Steam ferry and miscellaneous receipts.	Total receipts.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1893 ...	20,83,488	25,86,872	6,25,016	52,95,376
1894 ...	22,31,219	26,87,731	6,40,597	55,59,547

263. The increase in the number of passengers carried in the two years was from 5,058,307 in 1893 to 5,484,914 in 1894, and in general merchandise from tons 637,432 in 1893 to tons 688,035 in 1894.

264. *Tramways.*—The Patna City tramway extends over a length of five miles, from the front of the Judge's Court to the Patna City. The terms of the settlement of the misunderstanding between the Company and the Patna

Municipal Commissioners were noticed in paragraph 304 of last year's report. The manner in which the line is worked is, however, still the subject of much complaint, and the Company have several times been fined by the City Magistrate for using horses unfit for work; the carriages are reported to be rickety and the roadway in bad repair.

265. The income of the Company was Rs. 38,531-7-3 against Rs. 37,426-15 of the previous year, while the expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 32,433-7-1 against Rs. 31,299-3 of the previous year, showing a surplus income of Rs. 6,098 in 1894 as against Rs. 6,127 in 1893.

266. The tramway at Dehri in the Shahabad district, about 7 miles in length, which was constructed by the Bengal Public Works Department in 1892-93 in connection with their quarries, continued to be used during the year in carrying road metal for District Board roads and for the Grand Trunk road.

267. The concession for the light feeder line of railway to the Tirhut State Railway from Segouli railway station to Raxaul, referred to in paragraph 302 of last year's report, was granted during the year by the Champaran District Board to Sir William B. Hudson, K.C.I.E., and an agreement, dated 16th March 1894, signed by the two parties, has since been approved by Government.

268. Regarding the proposed railway line from Lakhisarai to Gaya, mentioned in paragraph 303 of last year's report, no further information has been received in my office.

269. The drainage works in Patna, noticed in paragraph 307 of last year's report, have nearly been completed. The expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 1,08,768, which, added to Rs. 1,68,962 expended in the preceding year, comes to a total of Rs. 2,77,730 up to the close of the year under review. From the point of view of sanitation the general opinion, in which I concur, is that the scheme so far has been of little or no benefit, owing to the absence of any means for flushing the drains; and I see no hope of improving matters until the Patna City has been provided with an efficient system of water-works. This matter was pressed upon the attention of the Municipal Commissioners by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General on the occasion of his recent visit to this district, and I am glad to say that they appear to be giving heed to His Excellency's advice, for I understand that they have the question of raising a fund or a loan for the purpose under consideration.

270. The experiments made in the bed of the river Phalgu for supplying pure water to the town of Gaya were carried out during the year, with the result of proving that excellent drinking water in sufficient quantity can in all probability be procured from this source. A rough estimate of the probable cost of the work, amounting to Rs. 6,00,000, has been prepared by Mr. C. A. Mills, Inspector of Works. The estimate and the connected reports are being printed.

271. The survey of the town of Gaya required for the above scheme as well as for its improved drainage has been continued during the year under report.

272. The Surajkund tank in the heart of the city of Gaya was partially cleansed during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,300 out of a sum of Rs. 2,400 contributed by Babu Chhota Lal Sijwar, C.I.E., for the purpose.

273. The Arrah water-works were completed on the 23rd April 1894, on which date they were formally opened by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The works were inspected by the Engineer to the Sanitary Board in March last, who has sent in a favourable report. The machinery is all in good order. Two of the settling tanks have been temporarily put out of use, as they were leaking. They will be brought into use again as soon as the river rises. This temporary disuse of the two tanks does not, however, in any way affect the supply of clear water, as the remaining two answer all requirements; the river water being clear scarcely requires settlement. The amount of filtered water drawn off at the standposts is 120,000 gallons per diem, which is equal to about 4 gallons per head of the population.

274. The works up to date have cost Rs. 3,81,503. They are reported now to be in thoroughly good working order.

275. *Patna and Gaya.*—The only embankment in these districts is the Sakri embankment, situated at the trijunction of the districts of Monghyr, Gaya, and Patna. The maintenance charges were very small, amounting to only Rs. 146 in the former and Rs. 9 in the latter.

276. *Saran.*—There is only one public embankment in this district, viz. the Gundak embankment, which is maintained by the Public Works Department under contract rates levied by the Collector from the proprietors of the estates protected under section 63 of the Embankment Act. The embankment was properly maintained during the year of report. The financial results during the year are shown below :—

Arrear demand.	Current demand.	Total.	Collections during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5
Rs. 12,756	Rs. 23,900	Rs. 36,656	Rs. 23,095	Rs. 13,561

277. *Champan.*—In this district also the only public embankment is the Gundak embankment mentioned in the preceding paragraph. During the year under report the Gundak river encroached considerably on the 80th to 82nd miles of the embankment near the village of Dhahaha. This has necessitated a new retired line, for which a declaration under the Land Acquisition Act has been issued. The work was to be completed before this year's rainy season. I have not yet heard whether this intention has been carried out.

278. The expenditure incurred on this embankment during the year was Rs. 19,361 against Rs. 29,789 of the preceding year.

279. The gap between the Gundak and the Turki embankments, a length of 1,200 feet, was closed up by the construction of an embankment with a sluice in the channel leading to the Baye nala at a cost of Rs. 10,833, of which Rs. 4,466 were spent during the year.

280. Sanction of Government has also been obtained for the construction of a sluice gate at Barharwa near the 52nd mile of the embankment.

281. The financial results of the administration of the Gundak embankment in the Champan district are shown in the following statement :—

Arrear demand.	Current demand.	Total.	Collection during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5
Rs. 149 5 3	Rs. 13,000	Rs. 13,149 5 3	Rs. 10,913 15 5	Rs. 2,235 5 10

282. *Muzaffarpur.*—In the Muzaffarpur district there are two lines of embankments, namely, the Gundak, above mentioned, and the Turki. The former, as stated above, is maintained under the contract, and latter is under the takavi system. Both embankments were properly maintained throughout the year. Some damage was done to the Turki embankment by the floods of the Bagmati, which necessitated extensive repairs.

283. The net demand on account of these embankments (arrear and current) was Rs. 22,203. Of this Rs. 15,197 were collected and Rs. 3 remitted, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 7,003 as compared with a similar balance of Rs. 13,899 at the end of the previous year.

284. *Darbhanga*.—In Darbhanga the Gundak and the Ganges embankments continued to be maintained on the contract and takavi systems respectively.

285. The subjoined table compares the cost of maintenance and recoveries in respect of each system during the last two years:—

Year.	Embankment.	Arrear of last year.	Demand of the current year.	Total.	Collection.	Balance.	Percentage of collection.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1893-94	Gundak	Rs. 3,611	Rs. 2,119	Rs. 5,730	Rs. 2,269	Rs. 3,461	39.6
	Ganges	1,763	5,479	7,182	4,013	3,169	55.8
	Total	5,374	7,598	12,972	6,282	6,690	Average. 48.6
1894-95	Gundak	3,161	2,119	5,280	2,286	3,294	40.96
	Ganges	3,286	3,114	6,400	4,908	1,792	78.18
	Total	6,447	5,233	11,680	7,194	5,086	Average. 55.58

There has thus been a slight improvement in the collections during the year under review.

286. There was no complaint made during the year as to the working of the canals in this Division. They continued to be of great service to the agriculturists. The following table compares the area irrigated and the financial working of the Sone Canals in Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad during the last three years:—

District.	Area irrigated in acres.			Total demand, including arrears (exclusive of miscellaneous demand).			Total collection.			Remission.			Balance.			Percentage of collection.		
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Patna	32,903	36,898	35,906	Rs. 1,03,474	Rs. 96,260	Rs. 97,074	Rs. 74,778	Rs. 76,323	Rs. 92,336	Rs. 10,080	Rs. 342	Rs. 224	Rs. 18,586	Rs. 19,696	Rs. 4,314	72.3	79.2	94
Gaya	44,213	45,145	42,515	1,29,410	1,09,583	97,045	1,15,525	1,02,691	93,297	1,574	195	179	14,311	6,707	4,170	87.7	93.7	94
Shahabad	2,89,916	1,09,040	2,24,593	8,29,332	7,35,196	6,94,43	7,71,169	6,55,249	5,68,231	3,290	4,295	3,189	64,883	75,564	32,143	93.0	89.0	94
Total	3,67,038	1,91,083	3,03,014	19,62,176	9,40,961	7,88,753	9,59,472	8,34,262	7,43,864	14,914	4,832	4,092	87,790	1,01,857	40,807	90.3	89.6	94

It will be seen that the total area irrigated was 63,786 acres less than in 1892-93 and 47,837 acres less than in 1893-94, the reason being the greater abundance of the rainfall during the year under review. The total demand for the year, including arrears, was Rs. 7,88,763, of which Rs. 7,43,864 were collected, and the small aggregate sum of Rs. 4,092 was remitted, leaving a balance due on the 31st March of Rs. 40,807 as compared with balances of Rs. 87,790 and Rs. 1,01,857 in the two preceding years. The result is extremely creditable to the Special Deputy Collector, who is in charge of the collections, and his staff.

287. It has been found that the system of freely giving long leases for irrigation has operated in an injurious manner by inducing the cultivators in villages near to the canals to convert an undue proportion of their rabi lands in paddy fields. Many of these are high sandy lands and absorb a larger quantity of water than is required for legitimate rice lands, with the result that the area ultimately irrigable is materially reduced. But a greater evil than this is that in seasons of drought it becomes impossible to supply a share of the water to villages which are further away even for their legitimate rice

lands. The favoured villages get full crops, partly paddy, where they should have cultivated rabi and bhadoi, while the excluded villages get absolutely none. I understand that the Superintending Engineer has brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer to Government, and submitted certain proposals with a view to remedy the above defects.

288. The long-outstanding claims against the guarantors under the former system of working these canals have recently been satisfactorily adjusted, with the result that nothing remains due from any of them. It only now remains for the Collector to recover certain rates due to them from cultivators who have used the water. A revised notification offering leases of the different channels was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* in March last, fixing the full annual demand at Rs. 10,000, but I understand that no application has yet been received. These canals are under the direct management of the officers of the Public Works Department.

Saran Canals.
289. This is the only canal in the Champaran district, and 10,845 acres of land were irrigated by it during the year against 3,071 acres in the preceding year.

Madhuban Canal.
290. The damage done to the canal by the floods of 1893 was repaired during the year under report. The total expenditure incurred during the year for the maintenance and repairs of the canal amounted to Rs. 6,910.

Roadside wells.
291. In paragraph 312 of last year's report I noticed the action that had been taken by certain District Boards in making use of section 76 of the Local Self-Government Act to acquire property in roadside wells along the chief traffic routes, in order to provide for their proper maintenance and cleansing in future. A good deal had been done in this direction during the past year in some of the districts, as the following statement shows. I have again called the attention of the District Officers to this very important matter :—

Districts.	1893-94.				1894-95.			
	Number of wells repaired or cleaned.	Number of new wells constructed.	Number of wells provided with chain bucket and ladle.	Cost of operation in columns 2, 3, and 4.	Number of wells repaired or cleaned.	Number of new wells constructed.	Number of wells supplied with chain bucket and ladle.	Cost of operations in columns 6, 7 and 8.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs.				Rs.
Paima	2	5	.....	1,035	5	10	.....	2,500
Gaya	2	1	.....	653	23	12	.....	2,470
Shahdol	13	.....	.....	1,533	4	.....	5	400
Saran	9	4	10	1,046	63	2	10	2,700
Champaran	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	1,225
Munsharpar	63	.....	.....	2,739	120	.....	.....	4,950
Darbhanga	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	.....	25	900
Total	79	10	10	7,036	263	24	50	17,100

XXIV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

292. The communications in the Division, generally, have been maintained in good order throughout the year. Fortunately there was no repetition of the heavy floods which occurred in the northern districts last year, and the roads, which were then so seriously damaged, have now for the most part been repaired, and several of the more important bridges which were washed away have been rebuilt.

293. The total outlay for the year under report on both original and repair works was only Rs. 8,18,576 as compared with Rs. 10,09,562 expended last year.

294. The following table will show the expenditure in each district on both original works and repairs, the budget allotments, and the percentage of expenditure under both heads of works:—

District.	ORIGINAL WORKS.			REPAIRS.		
	Budget allotment.	Outlay during the year.	Percentage.	Budget allotment.	Outlay during the year.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
Patna ...	36,906	34,076	92.33	64,115	62,221	97.04
Gaya ...	1,51,890	67,978	44.75	83,069	58,951	70.96
Shahabad ...	45,456	44,428	97.74	88,155	80,618	91.45
Saran ...	1,17,380	60,752	51.77	54,078	51,845	95.87
Champaran ...	42,405	38,667	91.20	32,640	29,940	91.72
Muzaffarpur ..	1,07,311	1,00,768	93.90	65,192	61,689	94.62
Darbhanga ...	52,867	45,636	86.32	92,802	81,007	87.29
Total ...	5,54,165	3,92,305	70.79	4,80,051	4,26,271	88.79

The above figures show that, with the exception of Gaya and Saran, the percentage of expenditure on original works varied from 86.32 to 97.74 of the budget grants. When it is considered that the accounts are closed on the 31st March, when a considerable portion of the working season still remains unexpired, this result may be taken as on the whole satisfactory. The lowest percentage is in Gaya, and the failure to work up to the full budget grant is reported to be due, partly to delay in obtaining Government sanction to certain plans and estimates, for which provision was made in the budget, and partly to some of the contractors having failed to work up to time. In Saran, although the percentage is only 51.77 up to the end of March, the original works have all been completed by the present date. Muzaffarpur occupies the first place in the Division for the year, having spent Rs. 1,00,768 out of an allotment of Rs. 1,07,311.

295. The percentage of the outlay on repair works as compared with the budget grants varies from 70.96 to 97.04, and no less than the five of the seven districts in the Division have spent 90 per cent. of their allotments. This result is also satisfactory.

296. The following is a brief summary of the works undertaken by the various District Boards in the Division.

297. *Patna.*—The important girder bridge over the Poonpoo river on the Patwa-Hilsa road was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 92,968, showing a large saving on the estimate. The metalling of the same road was continued during the year, and up to the present the total expenditure on this estimate has amounted to Rs. 88,954. Two important bridges, commenced in the preceding year over two of the branches of the Panchana river on the 16th and 18th miles of the Bihar-Bakhtiarpur road, were completed during the year of report. A causeway was also constructed across another branch of the

Punchana river, and the first two miles of the Bihar-Ekangserai road were metalled. With the exception of a bridge which was constructed on the Barh-Sahsarah road, the other works undertaken in this district were not of sufficient importance to deserve separate mention.

298. *Gaya*.—The three important iron girder bridges over the Daroo, Mohurea, and Morhur rivers on the Jahanabad-Arwal road, which were commenced in the year 1893-94, were completed during the year. The estimate for the fourth girder bridge on this road over the Ghanghur nala had to be revised, the waterway allowed in the original estimate being considered insufficient, as the heavy flood of the previous year had widened the stream considerably. The revised estimate has received the sanction of Government, and the work is in progress. When this bridge is completed, there will be only one unbridged stream on this road, viz. the Poonpoon. The East Indian Railway have recently dismantled and rebuilt the Morhur bridge on the Patna-Gaya line, and it is understood that the bridge over the Dharda at Jahanabad will also be reconstructed. If the girders of the latter bridge would be purchased at a reasonable cost, they could be utilised in spanning the Poonpoon, and if this can be carried out, the very important feeder road will be bridged from end to end. The total cost of the three bridges which are already completed is Rs. 37,521. The raising and bridging of the Gaya-Shewganj road is now practically finished. This important line of communication cuts off a considerable distance in the journey from Gaya to Aurangabad and the west of the district. The amount spent up to the end of the year on raising this road was Rs. 31,899, and on culverts Rs. 27,606. A girder bridge of 60 feet span has been constructed over the Sabinala, on the Gaya-Sherghati road, in place of an old native-built bridge which was washed away by heavy floods a few years ago. The cost of this bridge was Rs. 15,883. The raising and bridging of the Nawada-Pakribarawan road was continued during the year, and now approaches completion. An important road in the south of the district, from Aurangabad to Moharajganj, was raised and bridged throughout. The total expenditure on the former of these works up to the present date has amounted to Rs. 20,042 and on the latter Rs. 23,889. The platforms of two large bridges over the Jamuria and Kowali streams on the Gaya-Daudnagar road have been renewed. The old platforms which were of timber and very rotten have been replaced by iron rolled joists. Another important feeder road from Jahanabad to Husalganj was nearly completed during the year. The road from Jahanabad to Bandhuganj was partly raised and bridged at an expense of Rs. 16,240, and the metalling of the Rowsilla and Pretsilla road was commenced. This road is very largely used by the pilgrims who visit Gaya, as Pretsilla is one of the most important shrines in the town. This work was therefore urgently needed, and when completed will be a great boon to the public. The other original works carried out in this district during the year are of minor importance.

299. *Shahabad*.—The budget allotments for both original works and repairs were fully worked up to, with the exception of one work, the raising of the Gurhani-Bhita road, in which instance the contractor failed to complete his work. The allotments for original works were, however, much smaller than usual. This is due to the fact that the gross income during 1894-95 was Rs. 1,25,930 less than in the previous year. The actual cash balance on 1st April 1893 was Rs. 1,40,194. Out of this amount the District Board contributed Rs. 1,00,000 to the Arrah water-works, which reduced the opening balance on the 1st of April 1894 to Rs. 24,600 only. Another cause which led to less money being available for original works was the very heavy expenditure on repair works, which is due to the large mileage of metalled roads in this district. Among the important original works which were completed during the year, the following deserve to be mentioned:—

The first four miles of the Sasaram-Arrah road were metalled, and the improvements on the Kailwar-Baheara road were continued. This latter road connects the East Indian Railway and the head works of the Arrah water-works. It is being raised and metalled throughout, so as to provide means of communication at all times of the year. An important bridge over the Gurhani river was renewed, and the construction of the Bharauni bridge and the raising of the

approaches were completed. The works in connection with the improvement of the Kailwar-Arrah road were also finished. Two dip bridges, which are constructed so as to allow very heavy floods to pass over them, were built on the Bundtoli-Bulbatra road and the Arrah-Salempur road. A bridge was also constructed over the Sonadia nala on the last-mentioned road, and an inspection bungalow was erected at Berhampore on the Kailwar-Buxar road. This bungalow was urgently required, as it is the only inspection bungalow between Kailwar and Buxar, a distance of about 60 miles.

300. *Saran.*—The budget grant for original works in this district was Rs. 1,17,330, being the highest in the Division with the exception of Gaya. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 60,752 up to the 31st of March, and the works have been practically all completed since that date. This is a very marked improvement on last year's work. Amongst the more important items, the following may be mentioned:—

Three miles of the Chapra-Sonepur road, three miles of the Khira-Ramkola road, and two miles of the Sitalpur-Makair roads were metalled. Brick side-drains were constructed along the sides of the road running through the Amnour bazar. This is a great improvement, as this portion of the road was practically impassable during the rains. The "liks" or side tracks of the Chapra-Rewaghat road were raised and improved from the third to seventh miles. An important bridge was constructed over the Gandak river on the road from Siwan to Basantpur. The raising and bridging of the Andar-Nurhan road was commenced, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 10,125. Work was started on the improvements of the Mirganj-Thaway road. This is an important road, as it connects the two subdivisions of Gopalganj and Siwan. The part now being raised and metalled was liable to be flooded during the rains. Three roads were demarcated, namely, the Siwan-Siswan, Siwan-Dharauli, and Siwan-Nugwa roads. An important bridge was commenced at Mushruk, on the Chapra-Sutterghat road, to replace an old decayed wooden bridge which existed formerly. The new masonry bridge has been completed since the 31st of March. Some 13 minor culverts were constructed in different parts of the district.

301. *Champaran.*—Champaran is by far the poorest district in the Division so far as road cess collections are concerned, and the District Board was able to budget only Rs. 42,405, of which Rs. 38,667 were expended during the year. The result is satisfactory. The money spent in Champaran was principally for small bridges on different roads in the district, and for renewing 13 culverts which were in a ruinous condition on the Bettiah-Bulther road. Materials were collected and well curbs prepared for a double 20 feet span arch bridge on the second mile. The Motihari-Mohsi road was improved, and 10 culverts of various sizes were built on the Shikarpur-Ramnagar road. Several culverts were also constructed on the Ramnagar-Bagaha road, and an iron bridge of 25 feet span was built on the Lagunoha-Bagaha road. A bridge over the Imirti river on the Motihari-Dhaka road was partially destroyed in last year's floods, and three additional spans of 25 feet each have now been added to it. Materials were collected for the construction of culverts on the Turkowlia-Sengaon road. An important bund called the Ticaha bund, which protects a large area of country from being flooded in the rains, was completed during the year. A causeway some 480 feet long, with a double 2' 6" arch culvert in the centre, was commenced on the Dacca-Padmohan road, but owing to the lateness of last year's rainy season it could not be carried to completion by the 31st March. Five culverts were constructed on the Lowria-Shikarpur road, and several minor culverts and pipe-drains were built in different parts of the district. Nearly all the works budgeted for were completed by the end of the official year, but a few bills were not ready and therefore could not be paid.

302. *Muzaffarpur.*—Muzaffarpur shows the highest expenditure of all the districts in the Division for the past year, so far as original works are concerned. A great quantity of important work was carried out, and the following deserve separate notice:—

A portion of the Korlahia ghat road was raised above high flood level and metalled during the year. On the Gopinathpur road two bridges were constructed, giving an additional 70 lineal feet of waterway, the formation of the

road was improved, and the limits of the District Board lands were permanently demarcated. Four masonry bridges, affording 150 lineal feet of waterway, were commenced on the Sursand road, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 7,216. Two large masonry viaducts, giving 345 feet of waterway, which were commenced the year before on the Shoulhar road, were completed during the year, and two more, aggregating 270 running feet of waterway, were commenced. The expenditure against these works was Rs. 15,535. Five minor culverts were constructed on the Sereya road, and the road was otherwise improved. On the Arizpur road a masonry bridge of 9 spans of 15 feet was built over the Noon river, costing Rs. 12,384, and a similar bridge was commenced over the Dhanoh-Nasi on the Jeintpur road. At the end of the official year the masonry was completed up to the springing of the arches. Forty-eight minor culverts were constructed in various parts of the district, and 22 timber-topped bridges were arched over. Some sandy portions of the Karlabiaghat, Pusa, Deorea, and Sahibganj roads were metalled, and materials were collected for metalling a portion of the Rewaghat road. The progress made in this district during the year is particularly creditable to the District Engineer, Mr. Disney. The work is reported by the Inspector of Local Works to be as good in quality as it is in quantity.

303. *Darbhanga*.—The greater part of the work in this district consisted of repairing the damages caused by the unprecedented floods of the preceding season. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Dhoi iron bridge of 6 spans of 36 feet each on the Darbhanga-Boheara road at a cost of Rs. 22,760. This bridge has been partly destroyed by the floods above referred to. Another bridge, which was seriously damaged on the Madhubani-Banipati road, has been replaced by an iron bridge of 6 spans of 30 feet. A masonry bridge of 5 spans of 20 feet has been constructed over the Jamuria river of the Samastipur-Hursingpur road in place of an old rickety timber bridge. Besides the above works, seven new culverts were constructed during the year on different roads in the district, and three culverts, which remained unfinished at the end of the previous year, were also completed. A sum of Rs. 6,254 was spent in surveying the district roads and roadside lands in anticipation of the cadastral survey. This is an important matter, and has been attended to, I believe, in all the four northern districts. An inspection bungalow was constructed at Samastipur, and materials for another (to be built at Roserah) were collected. The large sum of Rs. 37,099 had to be spent in repairing flood damages. As reported last year, these damages were very heavy, and it will take the Board, which is still heavily in debt to Government, some years before it will be able to restore all its roads to a satisfactory condition.

The Collector of Darbhanga in his report remarks:—I consider the state of the roads to be on the whole excellent. Coming from a Bengal district, they strike one as being very good. I drove over all the Samastipur subdivision, part of it in a carriage and pair, and all over the Madhubani and part of the Sadar, and met with no difficulty. There are places where floods have damaged the roads, but they are the only bad parts.

304. The section of the Grand Trunk Road, extending from Bhulachutty to Baroon in the Gaya district, was, under the instructions of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department, handed over by the District Board of Gaya to the Superintending Engineer, Sone Circle. The only Provincial road, therefore, which is now maintained by a local authority is the road from Dinapore Cantonment to the Dinapore Railway station at Khagoul. This road is maintained by the District Board of Patna, there being an annual Government grant of Rs. 5,000. Last year the expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,377, and the unexpended balance will be added to the grant for the current year.

305. The total amount spent in the Division on village roads was Rs. 63,602, as compared with Rs. 79,899 expended in the previous year. The following statement shows the amount spent in each district of the Division during the year. As usual, Saran stands highest on the list, and the expenditure was lowest in Champaran. In all districts, with the exception of Champaran (where the

work is done by the District Engineer), these repairs are carried out by the Local Boards in whose areas the village roads lie:—

DISTRICT.	Total length.	Outlay.	Rate per mile.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
	Miles.	Rs.	Rs.	
Patna	586	8,624	14.7	
Gaya	563	4,787	8.5	
Shahabad	1,438	12,950	9.2	
Saran	1,680	17,796	10.6	
Champaran	318	2,277	7.1	
Muzaffarpur	496½	7,526	15.1	
Darbhanga	703	9,638	13.7	
Total	5,784½	63,602	10.9	

Most of these roads are unbridged surface tracks, and I have laid it down as a principle that, except in special cases, the cost of the repairs should not be more on the average than Rs. 10 per mile. This limit, however, has been slightly exceeded in Saran and heavily exceeded in Patna, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga. In Muzaffarpur the rate per mile is practically the same as that of the previous year. In Patna and Darbhanga the rates of the previous year were Rs. 27.17 and Rs. 18 per mile respectively, so that a considerable reduction has been effected in these two districts. The attention of the District Boards concerned will be again drawn to this matter, with a view, if possible, to limit the average expenditure to Rs. 10 a mile in future. In special cases, as, for instance, where any bridging is required, larger allotments can be made if due reasons are shown. A sum of Rs. 6,198 was spent by the District Board of Gaya on the improvement and maintenance of Government estate roads. The amount was paid to the District Board by Government as a special khas mahal grant.

306. The total amount spent in tree-planting in the entire Division during the year was Rs. 7,340, and it was distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
Patna	725
Gaya	1,888
Shahabad	3,207
Saran	1,432
Champaran	88
Muzaffarpur	Nil.
Darbhanga	Nil.

In three of the districts, namely, Patna, Gaya, and Champaran, no new trees were planted during the year, but the amounts spent were incurred on the maintenance of existing trees. In Shahabad the new trees which have been planted are reported to be "mostly timber wood," by which it is understood that trees which will hereafter give valuable timber have been preferred to other varieties and to fruit trees.

In Saran, on the other hand, most of the trees planted during the year are reported to be mango trees. Of the amount spent in Saran, Rs. 478 represent the cost of establishment. The result of the tree-planting in recent years in Shahabad has been very satisfactory, and this is due to the personal interest taken by the District Engineer, Mr. Edwards, in this branch of his work.

307. The following statements show (1) the length of metalled and unmetalled roads, whether maintained by District Boards, Local Boards or Municipalities, and (2) the allotments and expenditure incurred on works in the several districts of the Patna Division during the past two years:—

Statement showing the allotments and the expenditure incurred on works in the several districts in the Patna Division during the years 1893-94 and 1894-95.

DISTRICT.	Original works.	Repairs.	Establi- ment.	Tools and plant.	Water- supply and works.	Total expendi- ture.	Total allotment.	Percent- age.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Patna 1893-94 ...	65,004	70,211	26,351	419	.....	1,61,985	1,80,000	89.5
1894-95 ...	34,076	62,231	29,433	1,000	.....	1,26,739	1,31,447	96.4
Gaya 1893-94 ...	1,52,175	83,870	34,519	.....	.....	2,70,564	3,45,318	78.3
1894-95 ...	67,078	68,951	33,843	1,004	.....	1,69,876	1,81,836	93.4
Shahabad 1893-94 ...	61,011	90,055	23,803	.....	1,00,000	1,74,869	2,81,203	62.2
1894-95 ...	44,428	80,618	25,497	Mis. P. I. 3,055	5,152	1,59,692	1,70,911	93.1
Saran 1893-94 ...	24,740	82,380	24,133	.....	.....	1,31,253	1,40,640	93.3
1894-95 ...	60,752	61,845	30,131	424	.....	1,53,152	2,02,691	75.6
Champanan 1893-94 ...	4,250	23,322	14,067	.....	.....	8,639	83,458	10.3
1894-95 ...	58,007	30,565	17,528	937	1,235	88,002	90,152	97.6
Muzaffarpur 1893-94 ...	1,25,000	93,008	.....	.....	.....	2,17,187	2,31,100	93.9
1894-95 ...	1,00,708	61,980	25,078	1,017	4,953	1,88,736	2,04,703	92.2
Darbhanga 1893-94 ...	13,976	1,33,063	3,091	1,408	.....	1,51,548	1,80,782	83.8
1894-95 ...	45,006	8,007	80,060	3,008	607	1,00,684	1,80,492	55.8

Test relief works.

308. It was not found necessary to open any test relief works during the past year.

XXV.—WORKING OF THE LODGING-HOUSE ACT.

309. The Lodging-house Act is in force only in Gaya. The receipts of the year, including an opening balance of Rs. 2,222, amounted to Rs. 14,968 against Rs. 10,831 in the preceding year, which included an opening balance of Rs. 694. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 12,484 against Rs. 8,609, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,484. Rupees 2,500 was contributed to the Gaya Pilgrim Hospital and Rs. 1,221 to the Cholera Hospital, and Rs. 5,705 was spent on sanitary improvements.

310. The number of licenses taken out for the accommodation of 15,636 pilgrims was 320 against 421 in the previous year for 13,212 pilgrims. It will be observed that, although the number of pilgrims shows an increase, the number of licenses taken out is smaller than in the preceding year. This is because the rule is now fully enforced whereby no lodging-house is licensed unless fees are paid for the full number of pilgrims it can accommodate.

311. There were 35 prosecutions for breaches of the Act against 23 in the preceding year. All these were against persons who were found accommodating pilgrims without any license. The fines amounted to Rs. 1,191 against Rs. 113 in the previous year.

312. All the lodging-houses were inspected by the overseer and most of them by the Health Officer himself, who found them in good order. Strict supervision was exercised in the matter of lodging-house drains, privies, &c., the number of notices issued in this regard being 996 against 727 in the previous year.

313. The number of pilgrims admitted into the cholera hospital was 52, of whom 42 died. The Health Officer reports that the ratio of mortality is apt to be very high amongst these people, as they are not in a condition to resist disease, being reduced by hardship, fasting, fatigue and the excitement of their peculiar methods of worship. Altogether only 77 deaths are said to have occurred amongst pilgrims from all causes against 282 in the previous year. I confess I distrust these figures, having regard to the unusually unhealthy character of the year, and I am asking the Magistrate to make a further enquiry into the matter.

314. This Act is in force in all the districts of the Division, and appears to have been properly worked in Patna, Shahabad, and Muzaffarpur.

XXVI.—EDUCATION.

315. The total number of schools in the Division rose during the year from 6,265 to 6,560, and the pupils from 160,527 to 169,749, showing an increase of 295 schools and 9,222 pupils. The increase occurred principally in primary schools.

316. In Patna there was an increase of 33 schools and 1,451 pupils. The increase occurred principally in primary schools. There was an increase of three in the number of high schools, due to the opening of three unaided schools at

Patna, Dinapore, and Bihar. Lower Primary schools show a gain of 29 schools and 1,361 pupils. The increase is due to the re-appearance of schools which had disappeared in the preceding year, owing to failure to earn rewards. The Female schools increased by four, but the number of pupils decreased by 99. The falling off is attributed to the exclusion from the register of the names of such girls as declined to appear at the school examinations. There was a decrease of four special schools, due to the abolition of guru-training classes attached to Middle Vernacular schools, under paragraph 26 of the Government Resolution on the Report on Public Instruction for 1893-94.

317. In Gaya there was an increase of 75 schools and 1,766 pupils. The increase was practically confined to Lower Primary schools, and is due to the opening of new schools in backward parts of the district on the stipendiary system. The number of special schools decreased from four to three, owing to the closing of the madrasa in the Tikari Municipality.

318. In Shahabad there has been a gain of 52 schools and of 864 pupils in public institutions. The gain was highest in the Lower Primary schools for boys. The reason of the increase in this class of schools is that a good many indigenous schools conformed to the departmental lower A or B standard. The number of special schools decreased by two and the pupils by 79, the reason being that two high class Sanskrit schools that were returned among this class have this year been returned as private schools under instructions from the Director of Public Instruction. Among the existing five special schools are two madrasahs at Arrah and one at Sasaram, one technical school at Dumraon, and the Railway Coolie school at Buxar. Five new girls' schools were opened, of which three with 54 pupils are in the Board's area, and two with 47 pupils in the municipal areas. Prizes and rewards in the shape of ornaments, clothes and books, &c., were distributed among the girls who were successful at the departmental examinations. Five new Lower Primary schools were opened on the Rohtas plateau during the year. There are now altogether six schools on the plateau for the use of the hill population. There are only 87 pupils at these six schools, but the Magistrate hopes that with time and patience the schools may become popular and be more largely attended. The District Board have succeeded in converting three of the Board's Middle Vernacular schools into grant-in-aid schools, and the savings thus effected have been applied to primary education. The rules for advance payments of rewards to backward schools under the reward system have been introduced. Some progress has also been made in inducing zamindars and mahajans to contribute towards the support of Middle and Primary schools in their neighbourhood.

319. In Saran there has been a net gain of six schools and 749 pupils. The increase was in primary schools. The Chapra zilla school, which is a self-supporting institution, is one of the best managed zilla schools, and stood first in Bihar at the last Entrance Examination. Female schools show an increase of five schools, but a decrease of 23 pupils. There are two special schools—(1) Sir Rivers Thompson's Gautam Pathsala at Godna in the Revelganj Municipality, teaching Sanskrit logic, and (2) Bharatishary Sanskrit Tol at Chapra, supported by private enterprise. The former receives a special grant of Rs 40 a month from Government.

320. In Champaran there was an increase of 44 schools and 1,212 pupils, principally under Lower Primary schools. The Moghya Dome school at Chowturwa was attended by 13 pupils. It received a stipend of Rs. 3 a month. The Magistrate says the progress was not satisfactory. I have separately reported on this matter in my report to Government on the Moghya Dome settlements.

321. In Muzaffarpur there has been a net gain of 109 schools and 2,264 pupils. High English schools have declined by one owing to the abolition of the Tirhut academy in Sitamarhi. This is not a matter of regret. There was no real necessity for an English school of this class in an out-of-the-way place like Sitamarhi, and the effect of keeping it up could only be to keep boys away from the much better institutions of the same kind at the district headquarters. It was peculiarly a case where, if the parents of boys wished for a small special school for high English education, they should be required to pay all expenses themselves. There was, however, a large increase in Lower Primary schools.

322. In Darbhanga the number of schools rose from 828 to 830 and the pupils from 22,431 to 23,557, the increase being chiefly in Primary schools.

There is one special school in the district, that is, the Madhubani Sanskrit School, aided by the department. It prepares boys for the title examination of Calcutta and Bihar Sanskrit Sanjivan examinations. Female education has made some improvement, there being 31 girls' schools with 446 pupils against 27 schools with 414 pupils in the previous year.

323. The percentage of boys of school-going age attending schools for the Division has increased from 13.9 to 14.7. Patna stands first in this respect, the percentage being 30.6, or nearly double that of Gaya, which stands second.

324. The cost per head of pupil for the Division was Rs. 4-1 against Rs. 3-15-4 in the preceding year. It ranged from Rs. 25-9-11 in Patna to Rs. 17-2-5 in Gaya for high schools, from Rs. 12-0-5 in Darbhanga to Rs. 7-3-4 in Shahabad for Middle schools, from Rs. 2-12-5 in Gaya to Rs. 1-12 in Darbhanga for Primary schools, and from Rs. 96-9-1 in Patna to Rs. 7-9-4 in Saran for special schools.

325. The following table gives the number of Female schools and the pupils attending them in the several districts of the Division :—

DISTRICT.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
1	2	3	4	5
Patna ...	102	1,643	106	1,544
Gaya ...	12	311	14	321
Shahabad ...	10	296	13	292
Saran ...	97	1,495	102	1,472
Champaran ...	2	77	3	91
Muzaffarpur ...	10	247	12	266
Darbhanga ...	27	414	31	446
Total ...	260	4,483	281	4,432

The number of girls at school decreased from 1,643 to 1,544 in Patna (owing to the cause stated in paragraph 316 above), and in a less measure in Shahabad and Saran, while it increased in all other districts. There are also 2,587 girls reading in boys' schools.

326. On the whole, judging from numbers, it cannot, I fear, be said that female education is making much progress in Bihar. Two Bengali girls appeared at the last Upper Primary scholarship examination from the Bankipore girls' school, and both passed, one in the first and the other in the second division. The former gained a scholarship of Rs. 3 a month, tenable for two years. One girl from Kutumba in Aurangabad subdivision passed the Lower Primary scholarship examination.

327. The percentage of Muhammadan pupils to the total number is shown in the following table for the last two years :—

DISTRICT.	Percentage of Muhammadans to total population.	Percentage of Muhammadan pupils to total number of pupils.	
		1893-94.	1894-95.
i	2	3	4
Patna ...	11.36	17.2	17.08
Gaya ...	10.6	16.2	17.4
Shahabad ...	7.1	11.2	11.9
Saran ...	11.8	13.6	14.0
Champaran ...	12.0	15.9	17.01
Muzaffarpur ...	11.7	16.0	16.8
Darbhanga ...	14.3	18.8	16.1

It will be seen from the above that the proportion of Muhammadan pupils has slightly increased in four and fallen off in three of the districts; also that in all of the districts a larger percentage of Muhammadan boys go to school than of non-Muhammadans.

328. With a view to encourage Muhammadan education in the district of Patna, 21 stipendiary maktabas on Rs. 2 a month each have been established at places where they were urgently needed. The majority of the Muhammadan boys reading in middle schools in the same district are permitted to read free; and in the Lower Primary scholarship examination, when a Hindu and a Muhammadan boy earn the same marks, the scholarship is awarded to the latter. This seems scarcely fair, and I have suggested to the Magistrate that in such a case the pecuniary circumstances of the two boys should decide the question. The Magistrate of Gaya remarks:—"Muhammadans number only 10·6 per cent. of the population of the district, so that they are really attending school in far higher proportion than Hindus are." The Magistrate of Saran writes:—"The percentage of Muhammadan population to the total population in the district being 11·8, it is satisfactory to find 14 Muhammadan pupils to every 100 pupils under education. The percentage is highest in the high school and indigenous schools (21), 17 in middle English, 10 in middle vernacular, 8 in upper primary, and 11 in lower primary schools." In Champaran the total number of Muhammadan pupils in the high schools was 36 against 28 of the preceding year. In the middle English there were 73 against 84, in the middle vernacular there were 18 against 15, in the upper primary schools there were 70 against 82, and in the lower primary schools there were 2,303 against 1,970 of the preceding year. In Muzaffarpur there has been a total increase of 500 Muhammadan pupils. The increase occurs in all classes of schools except high English and upper primary. In Darbhanga the number of Muhammadan pupils has increased from 4,225 to 4,865.

329. Besides the above, there were 3,552 private institutions and 32,203 pupils attending them, as noted below:—

DISTRICT.	Number of private institutions.	Number of pupils.
1	2	3
Patna ...	621	5,269
Gaya ...	461	4,519
Shahabad ...	324	2,739
Saran ...	340	3,298
Champaran ...	304	4,200
Muzaffarpur ...	876	6,157
Darbhanga ...	626	6,021
Total ...	3,552	32,203

These are indigenous patshalas and maktabas which do not conform to the rules of the Department.

330. There has been a decrease in the number of special schools from 30 to 22. Patna shows a decrease of four, which is due to the abolition of guru-training classes attached to middle vernacular schools. Gaya shows a decrease of one, due to the closing of the madrassa in Tikari Municipality; and Shahabad shows a decrease of three, due to the exclusion of two high class Sanskrit schools from this class, they being treated as private schools, as already noticed above, and to the abolition of a guru training class attached to a middle school.

331. In the Bihar Industrial School there were 32 students in the Apprentice department and 37 in the Artisan department on the 31st March 1895. Thirty students of the Apprentice department get stipends from the District Boards in the Bihar Circle varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 each. All the artisans get stipends at the rate of Rs. 3 per month from the school funds, except two who are paid at the same rate from money given by private persons.

332. The total expenditure incurred on this school during the year was as follows:—

Serial No.	Items of expenditure.	Amount.
1	2	3
		Rs. A. P.
1	Establishment ...	2,720 7 2
2	Stipends ...	1,123 10 7
3	Tools, plant and materials ...	2,595 15 3
4	Contingencies ...	375 4 1
	Total ...	6,815 5 1

333. The school was inspected twice during the year by the Principal of the Sibpur Engineering College. Following the advice of this gentleman, the General Committee of the Bihar Industrial School have recommended the amalgamation of the school with the Survey class attached to the Patna College. The Principal of the Patna College has assented to the scheme in the main, and the proposal is now before Government for orders.

XXVII.—DISPENSARIES AND HOSPITALS.

334. The subjoined abstract shows the number of dispensaries and hospitals in each district during the year 1894, their income, and the average number of patients treated:—

DISTRICT.	Number of dispensaries.	INCOME FROM—					In-patients.	Out-patients.	Ratio per cent. of out-door patients to total population.
		Government.	District Board.	Municipality.	Subscription.	Total.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
Patna ...	11	676	6,411	22,077	1,118	30,282	34.72	89.62	6.29
Gaya ...	8	761	8,545	7,665	3,486	20,457	13.30	73.52	2.3
Shahabad ...	8	2,699	2,826	7,705	6,660	21,390	9.18	97.91	3.7
Saran ...	10	520	3,874	9,071	9,905	23,370	19.17	104.07	5.91
Champan ...	5	2,965	1,500	4,183	13,896	22,544	20.31	19.75	3.6
Muzaffarpur ...	4	98	4,000	1,514	3,887	9,499	11.33	80.69	1.9
Darbhanga ...	8	8,873	2,673	3,724	17,858	33,128	9.80	85.71	4.1
Total ...	54	16,592	29,829	55,939	56,810	1,60,670	16.83	78.75	3.9

During the year under review there were 54 dispensaries against 52 in the preceding year. The increase is owing to the opening of two new dispensaries, viz., at Sherghatty in Gaya and at Samastipur in Darbhanga.

There is a large increase in the total income of the dispensaries from Rs. 1,29,810 in 1893 to Rs. 1,60,670 in 1894. Municipal grants show a material increase in all districts, except Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, and District Board grants in all, except Gaya and Saran. It will be observed that in several districts where the latter grants were formerly very inadequate, the District Boards are now coming to a sense of their duty in this respect. There was a falling off in voluntary subscriptions in the first four districts, but this was more than made up for by the large increase from Rs. 4,472 to Rs. 13,896 in Champan, the difference representing the grant of nearly Rs. 9,000 by the Bettiah Raj for the support of the Dufferin Hospital at Bettiah. Similarly of the large item of Rs. 17,858 under the same head against Darbhanga, over Rs. 13,000

represent the costs incurred by the Maharaja on account of the Municipal and Dufferin Hospitals supported by him at Darbhanga. Otherwise it must, I fear, be accepted as a regrettable fact that there is a growing tendency among the general public to tie up their purse-strings and to leave the support of dispensaries more and more to the different local funds. The large increase from Rs. 654 to Rs. 8,873 in the Government grant to Darbhanga is due to a subsidy of over Rs. 7,000 for the construction of a new dispensary at Samastipur.

335. The total number of in and out patients treated in each district during the past two years are shown below :—

DISTRICT.	TOTAL NUMBER TREATED.					
	In-patients.		Out-patients.		Total.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna ...	3,254	3,399	90,254	111,393	93,508	114,792
Gaya ...	1,843	1,827	40,810	50,499	42,653	52,326
Shahabad ...	1,411	1,407	81,704	77,976	83,115	79,383
Saran ...	995	1,100	129,263	145,932	130,258	147,032
Champaran ...	1,327	1,677	62,981	67,909	64,308	69,586
Muzaffarpur ...	962	932	49,193	54,112	50,155	55,044
Darbhangha ...	1,382	1,368	112,542	116,185	113,874	117,553
Total ...	11,124	11,710	566,747	624,006	577,871	635,716

The total number of patients treated in all the 54 dispensaries during the year was 635,716 against 577,871 in the previous year, showing an increase of 57,845. The increase occurred in all the districts, except Shahabad, where there was a slight decrease. The general increase is no doubt in a great measure due to the unusual unhealthiness of the past year. In the case of Shahabad, however, the result does not answer to this theory, for it was the most unhealthy of all the districts.

336. In Patna there was an increase of both in and out patients, which is attributed (1) to necessity of medical assistance by spread of disease, and (2) to greater appreciation by the people of the English method of treatment.

337. In Gaya there was a slight decrease of in-patients, but a large increase of out-patients. The increase is attributed to the great prevalence of malarial fever during the year, and also to the increasing popularity of the European method of treatment. The female ward of the Gaya Pilgrim Hospital continued under the charge of the lady doctor of the Lady Dufferin Fund. Miss Perry was on leave to Europe from the 15th March 1894 to the end of the year. Mrs. Scott was appointed in her place, and joined on the 8th April 1894. In the interval the Assistant Surgeon looked after the Female department. The attendance in this department has steadily grown since it was organised. The total number of patients treated in it was 4,710 in 1892, 5,284 in 1893, and 5,767 in 1894. The number of in-patients was the same in 1894 as in the previous year, namely, 408. The annual income of the Gaya branch of the Lady Dufferin Fund amounts to Rs. 3,820, of which Rs. 1,200 is a contribution from the District Board and Rs. 600 from the Tikari Raj. The remaining sum is the interest on Rs. 57,700 invested in Government securities. The balance at the credit of the Fund at the close of the year was Rs. 65,558 against Rs. 72,047 at the close of the preceding year. A Zanana hospital has now been built, the entrance stone of which was laid by Lady Elliott on the 28th November 1894, and the main building was opened by Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin on the 30th March 1895. On the occasion of the opening of the hospital, the Raja of Maksudpur made a munificent contribution of a quarter of a lakh of

rupees to the Fund. At the same time Rajkumari Rattan Kuer, representing the 7 annas branch of the Tikari family, promised an annual contribution of Rs. 1,200, which, with an equal contribution from the 9 annas branch (now represented by the Court of Wards) and other sources of income, will practically secure to the hospital a regular endowment.

338. In Shahabad there was a decrease of 4 and 3,728 persons in the number of in and out patients respectively. It took place at all the dispensaries, except Dumraon and Sasaram, and is noticeable especially in fever cases. The decrease is difficult to explain, as the year was a most unhealthy one, and the sickness and mortality from fever and cholera were considerable. Mr. Marindin thinks that the fever was of such a virulent type that fewer persons who were attacked were able to come as out-patients to the dispensary for treatment than in ordinary years.

The Arrah dispensary is well managed and the Assistant Surgeon is attentive to his duties. The dispensary at Dumraon is entirely maintained by the Maharaja of Dumraon. The Assistant Surgeon, Babu Bepin Bohary Gupta, is very popular. The institution is in a satisfactory state.

339. In Saran the increase in the number of patients is due to the very large amount of sickness prevalent in the district during the year. There were ten dispensaries in this district during the year, of which three are supported by the Maharaja of Hatwa. The principal diseases treated were malarial fever, diseases of the skin, rheumatic affections, goitre and worms. On the whole the working of the dispensaries in this district is satisfactory, and they are much appreciated by the people.

340. In Champaran the increase of in and out patients is also attributed to the unusual unhealthiness of the year. The Dufferin Hospital at Bettiah, which is supported by the Raj, continued its useful work under the able management of Miss Jane Marsh. There was an increase from 6,802 to 6,896 in the number of out-door patients, and a very satisfactory increase from 293 to 538 in the in-door attendance. I regard this latter, as a rule, as a reliable index of good management. The four outlying dispensaries mentioned in last year's report as having been founded by the Bettiah Raj have, it seems, not yet been completed. The Collector reports that they are to be opened during the present year.

341. In Muzaffarpur there was a small decrease of in-patients but a large increase of out-patients. Besides the four dispensaries under Government supervision, there are two other private dispensaries, viz. Nanpur and Parihar. The former is maintained by the Chaudhry of Nanpur, and the latter by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. A third has lately been opened at Baghi by Babu Gujraj Shahi, zamindar of that place. It is a well constructed dispensary and it has been endowed with funds by the founder.

342. In Darbhanga all the dispensaries except Laheria Serai and Tajpur receive both in-door and out-door patients. The dispensary of Samastipur was opened in September last, and it was in working order. Besides the above, there are five private dispensaries in this district supported by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and are under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon.

343. The very useful medical work among women which is being carried on in the Patna City by Miss Grace Mackinnon was unfortunately interrupted by that lady having broken down from overwork at the beginning of the year, as mentioned in my last report. Miss Mackinnon was for this reason absent on leave from April to October. For part of this time Miss Gray carried on the work, but for two months the two dispensaries under the Association had to be closed. The number of in-door patients treated during the year was 28, out-door patients 3,902 with 14,477 attendances, major operations 26, minor operations 104, besides a large number of visits to private patients at their own houses. Hitherto the want of accommodation both for hospital cases and for the dispensary has been the great difficulty. I am glad to say, however, that the new building referred to in paragraph 385 of my last report, which has been named "The Duchess of Teck Hospital," has been nearly completed at a cost of Rs. 64,000, and will, it is hoped, be ready for use in a month. The hospital consists of the following buildings, viz. (I) administration block, containing out-patients and consulting rooms, compounders' room, store room, operating theatre and ward attached; (II) separate ward block, containing four

private wards on the cottage hospital system; (III) nurses' and matrons' quarters; (IV) lady doctor's house, containing one private ward and consulting room. There will be about 50 beds in all for in-patients. The site is an excellent one, large and airy, on a plot of high ground three-fourths of a mile to the west of the Opium Factory, not far from the bank of the river. The foundation stone was laid, as mentioned in my last report, by Sir A. P. MacDonnell on the 29th July 1893; and the building was visited by Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin on the 3rd April last during Her Excellency's stay at Bankipore.

XXVIII.—LIBRARIES.

344. The Bar Library at Bankipore had 72 members at the close of the year against 66 on the 31st March of the previous year. The reserve fund remained the same as in the previous year, viz., Rs. 1,000 in Government promissory notes. The cash balance on the 31st March 1895 was Rs. 1,291 against Rs. 973 on the 31st March 1894. The *Calcutta Gazette* and the Bengal Administration Report are supplied free by Government.

345. The Oriental Library received in the course of the year a considerable addition of English books and Arabic and Persian manuscripts from the late Secretary, Maulvi Khoda Baksh Khan Bahadur. A very handsome annual grant of Rs. 600 has, I am informed, been promised by His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

346. The Halliday Public Library at Gaya continues to be a useful institution. Almost all the European residents of the town and a good many native gentlemen are members. It has a funded capital of Rs. 12,000 in Government securities. A sum of Rs. 239 was received as interest during the year. The total income of the year, including an opening balance of Rs. 268, amounted to Rs. 914. A sum of Rs. 363 was spent on the purchase of 147 new books and Rs. 425 on other charges. The closing balance of the year was Rs. 125. The total number of books in the library now is 2,038. The Bar Library at Gaya had 45 members during the year. The donations and subscriptions amounted to Rs. 1,244. The cash balance on 31st March 1895 was Rs. 119. A sum of Rs. 837 was spent on the purchase of books and Rs. 275 on other charges.

347. The Bar Library at Arrah is reported to be an useful institution. It has 27 members.

348. The endowment Madrasa Library at Sasaram contains 453 Arabic, 215 Persian, 108 Urdu, and 138 English books.

349. The public library at Chapra is not in a prosperous condition. The house meant to be used as receptacle for the books is let to a private tenant, the subscriptions being too small to meet the necessary expenditure. The number of subscribers at the close of the year was 21 against 24 in the previous year. The subscriptions are not regularly paid. The opening balance, including the sale-proceeds of Government securities, was Rs. 2,225. The receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 989 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,891, including repairs to the building. The closing balance was Rs. 323.

350. There is no public library in Champaran, Muzaffarpur or Darbhanga.

351. The district and subdivisional libraries are generally in good order.

XXIX.—MUSEUMS.

352. The only museum in the Division is the Economic Museum at Bhojpur, established by the Maharaja of Dumraon in commemoration of the Jubilee year 1887. It continued to be maintained in fairly good order. The museum contains selected specimens of grain grown in India, of agricultural implements and tools, and of numerous economic products such as fibres, dyes and spices. This museum was one of the features at the agricultural exhibition which took place at Barahpur in February 1895.

353. There is a small building constructed by the Public Works Department near the Mahabodhi temple at Bodh Gaya, in which some Buddhist remains are deposited. They have been arrayed so far as the Collector has been able to do. Mr. Macpherson recommends the addition of an iron railing round the building. This seems desirable, as it is unenclosed and the exhibits are practically unprotected.

XXX.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

354. *Patna.*—The Patna Municipal Committee consists of 30 members, 20 of whom were elected by the rate-payers and 10 appointed by Government. The number of meetings held during the year was 16, of which 12 were general and 4 special. The average attendance of Commissioners at each meeting was 13·6.

355. I regret to have to say that the affairs of this important municipality are in a far from satisfactory state. On recently looking into them in connection with the proposal to raise funds for a water-supply scheme, I found that although the total income of the municipality from all sources may be taken approximately at Rs. 1,55,000 per annum, while the ordinary recurring expenditure comes to about Rs. 1,46,000, showing an annual surplus of Rs. 9,000, yet for the next 29 years the Municipal Commissioners, over and above their recurring annual expenditure, will have to pay an annual sum of Rs. 19,420 to Government in order to pay off the loan of Rs. 3,18,000 which they borrowed two years ago for the drainage scheme noticed in paragraph 269 of this report. In effect, therefore, they are at present annually over Rs. 10,000 to the bad, or, in other words, are bankrupt.

356. Under considerable pressure from the late District Magistrate and myself, the Municipal Commissioners were induced in August 1893 to appoint a salaried assessor. This officer has since then done excellent work, having by a careful revision of the house-tax in 6 of the 15 thanas raised the demand from Rs. 34,937 to Rs. 43,845, or by about 25 per cent. But I regret to say that the Municipal Commissioners, with a few praiseworthy exceptions, have seriously retarded the good effect of this measure by their long continued failure to dispose of a large number of objections against the revised assessment. And I also find that in a number of cases where they have interfered with the assessor's findings, they have passed summary orders without recording any reasons for upsetting his assessment. In fact, both the inaction as well as the action taken are of such a kind as to tend to bring the scheme of Local Self-Government as worked in this municipality into serious disrepute. I have myself more than once addressed the Municipal Commissioners through the Magistrate on this subject, but hitherto with but very little effect. Unfortunately the late Magistrate during the latter part of his tenure of office was unable, from serious ill-health, to keep a controlling hand over the Municipal Commissioners in this matter, or to check the general state of disorder into which the administration has in other respects fallen. The Officiating Magistrate, Mr. Inglis, has, however, taken the whole subject in hand with characteristic vigour, and I trust that the Municipal Commissioners will now be stimulated to a proper sense of their duties. A thorough and early reconstitution of the administration, especially in regard to matters of finance, is especially desirable in view of the pressing want of municipal water-works, not only for drinking purposes, but more particularly as a means for flushing the new drains, any hope of which is quite out of the question so long as the existing state of chaos in the collection and other departments continues. One other measure which I have lately pressed upon the notice of the Municipal Commissioners is the advisability of making immediate use of the proviso to sections 85 (b) and 97A of the revised Act to raise the rate of tax from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. on the annual value of holdings. This measure would save them from present bankruptcy, besides assisting them to make provision, whether it be in the shape of a loan or of an accumulating fund for municipal water-works. I have pointed out to them that there is no reason why they should not at once, without further discussion, pass a resolution to the effect suggested.

357. The Magistrate reports that the attempt to close the well privies with which the city is honeycombed, as noticed in former report, is being continued. Mr. Inglis, however, on this point remarks:—

“A large number of well-privies have been suppressed, and endeavour is being made to close the remaining ones which are of considerable number. The only obstacle which presents itself in removing these privies is the action of the Civil Court, which not unfrequently, on a suit brought by the owner of such privy, declare, on some technical ground, the order of the municipality null and void.”

358. The Barh Municipal Committee consists of nine members, six of whom are elected by the rate-payers and three appointed by Government. The number of meetings held during the year was 13, of which 11 were general and 2 special. The average attendance of members at each meeting was only 3.9. The income from all sources was Rs. 5,445. The total expenditure was Rs. 5,408.

359. The Bihar Municipal Committee consists of 12 members, of whom 8 were elected and 4 appointed. The number of meetings held was 21, of which 16 were general and 5 special. The receipts amounted to Rs. 14,485, and the expenditure to Rs. 16,083.

360. The Municipal Commissioners of Bihar have lately accepted mine and the Magistrate's advice, and have appointed a salaried assessor who appears to be doing his duty. I am glad to say that considerable vitality appears now to be being instilled into the Municipal Commissioners by the energy of their present Chairman, Maulvi Syed Aminuddin Ahmed.

361. The Dinapore Municipal Committee consists of 18 members, of whom 12 were elected and 6 appointed. The number of meetings held was 28, of which 14 were general and the remainder special. The receipts amounted to Rs. 12,916, and the expenditure to Rs. 15,434, the excess being due to the repairing and retelling of a main road.

362. *Gaya.*—There are three municipalities in this district, viz., Gaya, Tikari, and Daudnagar. The Magistrate of the district is Chairman of the first, Babu Deoki Nandan, a pleader, of the second, and the Assistant Engineer, Irrigation Department, of the third.

363. The following figures give the number of meetings held and the average attendance:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of members, including Chairman.	Number of meetings.	Percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Gaya ...	25	11	56.3
Tikari ...	12	28	42.5
Daudnagar ...	11	24	48.1

364. The net receipts (excluding the opening balance) and the expenditure of each municipality as compared with the preceding year are shown below:—

MUNICIPALITY.	RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5
Gaya ...	Rs. 65,641	Rs. 68,875	Rs. 67,525	Rs. 68,567
Tikari ...	6,967	6,949	6,582	8,651
Daudnagar ...	3,373	4,214	3,380	4,217

The increase of income in the Gaya Municipality is due to the proper taxation of places where certain offensive or dangerous trades are carried on, to larger receipts from fines, and to a donation of Rs. 1,500 by Babu Drigpal Lal, of Hasua, for a moribund ward in the Pilgrim hospital. The increase in

expenditure is chiefly on account of a drainage survey of the town, and completing the experiments for a supply of water from the bed of the river Phalgu, which has been already noticed in paragraph 270 of this report. The Magistrate reports that the Municipal Commissioners have, on the whole, shown a laudable desire to do their duty to the public and to give effect to the municipal policy of Government so far as their funds permit.

In Tikari the large increase in expenditure is chiefly owing to the construction of a municipal office and to the excavation of a tank.

365. *Shahabad*.—There are six municipalities in this district. The following statement shows the number of members, the number of meetings, and the percentage of attendance:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of Commissioners.	Number of meetings.	Average percentage.
1	2	3	4
Arrah	18	25	40·3
Jagdispur	9	7	77·7
Buxar	13	14	57·6
Dumraon	9	16	53·3
Sasaram	22	25	50·0
Bhabhua	9	11	40·0

The highest percentage of attendance was 77·7 in Jagdispur and the lowest in Arrah (40·3) and Bhabhua (40·0). The decrease in the percentage of attendance at Arrah from 50 to 40·3 is, as remarked by the Magistrate, unsatisfactory. The total receipts during the year, including the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 1,77,011, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,73,581, against Rs. 74,996 and Rs. 71,093 respectively in the preceding year. The large increase in receipts occurs only in Arrah, which is due to the loan received from Government for meeting in part the cost of Arrah water-works. The increase in expenditure is observable in all municipalities, except Bhabhua, which shows a falling off.

366. The Arrah water-works, opened in April 1894, supply filtered Sone water to the people of the town. The water has come gradually into favour, and its use is now general wherever it is laid on. The result of the scheme has been already noticed in paragraph 273 of this report. In the Buxar Municipality a large pukka well was completed during the year.

367. The Magistrate remarks:—"The Municipal Commissioners of Arrah, except the Vice-Chairman, pay very little attention to their business, and most of them find even attendance upon committee meetings too severe a demand upon their time and energies."

368. *Saran*.—The following statement shows the number of members, of meetings held, and the percentage of attendance:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of members.	Number of meetings.	Percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Chapra	18	19	59·6
Revelganj	12	18	77
Siwan	9	15	75·6

369. The receipts, including the balance of the previous year, the expenditure and the balance at the close of the year, were as follows:—

NAME OF MUNI- CIPALITY.	Receipts.	Expendi- ture.	Balance at the close of the year.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Chapra ...	36,259	36,178	81
Revelganj ...	9,806	9,100	706
Siwan ...	11,406	9,634	1,772

370. The Magistrate makes the following remarks:—

"The Chapra Municipality, owing to mismanagement, is both financially and administratively in a very bad state and is practically bankrupt. Under the system of management now followed, I fail to see that any reasonable chances of improvement exist. The Siwan and Revelganj Municipalities offer a very pleasant contrast, both being excellently managed; the latter, however, is suffering from a diminishing income due to the gradual decrease of the town's trade."

371. At my inspection of the Chapra Municipality in December last, I found its financial affairs in a very deplorable state, so much so that both the late and the present Chairmen had been obliged to make considerable advances from their own pockets to help the Municipal Commissioners to pay their way. Notwithstanding this, the Municipality was still heavily in debt, and a number of bills and salaries were for several months in arrears. I immediately drew the attention of the Municipal Commissioners to this matter in an official letter addressed to them through the Magistrate, at the same time pointing out to them that the town was much under-assessed and that their only hope of salvation was a proper re-assessment by a salaried assessor whom I pressed them to immediately appoint. I advised them, at the same time, to discard the very inadequate revision which had lately been made by the Municipal Commissioners themselves, but had not then been brought into force. I regret to say that the reply to this was a resolution rejecting my advice and confirming the very imperfect so-called revision that I had warned them against accepting. The obvious result was immediate bankruptcy, to save themselves from which the Commissioners adopted the expediency of striking out from their budget for the current year the usual allotment of Rs. 1,304 for street watering, reducing the grant for "lighting" from Rs. 3,222 to Rs. 1,119, and generally starving the administration. They also proposed to raise a loan of Rs. 8,000 to meet their debts—a loan which, as matters stood, they could not possibly pay off and at the same time provide for the most ordinary municipal requirements. Under the circumstances, I found myself under the necessity of reporting the case to Government for action under the revised section 111A of the Bengal Municipal Act. The necessary order has since been passed, and the Municipal Commissioners have been called upon to show cause or to carry out the order.

372. Several cases have also lately been reported by the District Magistrate of failure on the part of the Chapra Municipal Commissioners to perform their statutory duties. He has been directed, if he finds it necessary, to report the matters for action under section 64 of the Act.

373. *Champaran*.—There are two municipalities in this district—Motihari and Bettiah. The number of members, of meetings held, and the percentage of attendance, are given below:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of members.	Number of meetings.	Average percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Motihari ...	13	17	57·9
Bettiah ...	13	14	50

Both municipalities worked satisfactorily during the year.

374. The levels of the town of Motihari have been taken; but the Magistrate fears that the interest on a loan for the purpose of an efficacious system of drainage would be more than the municipality could afford.

375. I am inclined to think that the Magistrate's decision in this matter is correct, and with reference to the general question of municipal drainage schemes I venture to express the opinion that there seems a danger at present of such undertakings being too hastily engaged in. I refer to schemes for drainage by means of *masonry* drains. No doubt if all offensive matter can be effectually and quickly carried off by pukka roadside drains, a drainage scheme of the kind is very desirable. But it should first be certain that there are (1) a sufficient fall, and (2) proper means of flushing. Otherwise I look upon a system of pukka drains, whether open or covered in, as anything but an unmixed blessing. Large open kutchra drains have at least the great advantage of the liquid portion of the filth they contain being absorbed and deodorised by contact with the surrounding earth. The dry layer of dirt which results is comparatively innocuous, and can easily be carted away and fresh earth substituted at no great expenso. But with a system of pukka drains the filth does not dry or have a chance of becoming deodorised and assimilated with the surrounding earth, and a scheme of the kind may, and often does, result (in the case of municipalities in the plains, where there is no fall and no good means of flushing) in the last state being very much worse than the first.

376. The Bayley sarai has not prospered, and the Magistrate thinks it a pity it was ever erected. Efforts are, however, being made to make it more popular.

377. The construction of the female ward in the charitable dispensary at Motihari, referred to in paragraph 417 of last year's report, has not yet been taken in hand. The Magistrate does not say why.

378. *Muzaffarpur*.—There are four municipalities in this district. The following table shows the number of members, of meetings held, and the average attendance at each meeting:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of members.	Number of meetings.	Average percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Muzaffarpur ...	19	12	44·4
Hajipur ...	13	12	40·7
Lalganj ...	11	10	38·1
Sitamarhi ...	12	15	45·7

379. The Magistrate says:—"Many matters of importance were discussed by the Municipal Commissioners of Muzaffarpur. Some of the Commissioners take considerable interest in the affairs of the town, but this is not the case with all." The Muzaffarpur drainage scheme has been nearly completed. A scheme for flushing the drains with river water has been prepared and an engine and pump purchased. A revision of the municipal tax has been made by the Municipal Commissioners during the year. I regret to say that they rejected the District Magistrate's proposal to appoint a salaried assessor for the purpose.

380. In the Hajipur subdivision there are two municipalities, namely, Hajipur and Lalganj. The Subdivisional Officer is the Chairman of both. Maulvi Jawad Hossein, the Vice-Chairman of the Hajipur Municipality, is said to take much interest in municipal matters. As regards the Lalganj Municipality, it is reported by the Subdivisional Officer that the Vice-Chairman, Babu Rash Bihari Ray, who is a Bengali, does not get on well with the other Municipal Commissioners. But the Magistrate remarks that at Lalganj there is no other suitable man available for the office of Vice-Chairman. The result, as Mr. Hare states, is that "nothing seems ever to be done unless it is looked after by the Subdivisional Officer," of the truth of which he proceeds to give an instance. The result is to be regretted, as Babu Rash Bihari Ray is an energetic and enlightened gentleman and might be of much use to the town if it were not for these dissensions.

381. The Subdivisional Officer of Sitamarhi is the Chairman of the Sitamarhi Municipality. The Vice-Chairman, Babu Ambica Prosad, has rendered him good assistance. The amount embezzled by the late tax-daroga Baldeo Sahai (see paragraph 410 of last year's report) has been realised and credited to the municipal funds.

382. *Darbhanga*.—There are three municipalities in this district, viz. Darbhanga, Madhubani, and Roserah.

383. The following table shows the number of members, of meetings held, and the percentage of attendance at each meeting:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Number of members.	Number of meetings.	Average percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Darbhanga ...	22	10	27·2
Madhubani ...	16	13	50·5
Roserah ...	14	23	56·7

384. The Magistrate writes:—

"As regards both the number of meetings and the attendance of the Commissioners, Darbhanga represents the worst feature. Collections, too, are in a lamentable state. Bills have sometimes to be held over for paucity of funds, while Madhubani closes the year with an outstanding balance of Rs. 31 only and Roserah with nil."

385. The unsatisfactory administration of the Darbhanga Municipality has been noticed in the reports of the last two years. I am glad, however, to say that the Municipal Commissioners have lately consented to appoint a salaried assessor for a general revision which is much needed. I may mention in this connection that I have recommended the Municipal Commissioners to apply for Government sanction to the levying of a rate on the annual value of holdings under clause (b) of section 85 of the Act, instead of, as at present, a tax upon persons under clause (a).

386. There has been a deal of discussion lately between my office and the Municipality on the subject of the introduction of Part IX of the Act,

which I suggested should be extended, as a tentative measure, to Ward IV, the most populous part of the town. The Municipal Commissioners have, however, expressed their decided opposition to the measure owing, it is pleaded, to the impoverished state of the inhabitants. I have now pointed out to them that there is no reason why the cleansing of latrines in a systematic manner should be more expensive than the present irregular system, excepting on the supposition that the work is not now properly performed.

387. *District and Local Boards.*—The statement below shows the attendance of members of the District Boards of this Division during the past year:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of members.	Number of meetings.	Average percentage of attendance.
1	2	3	4
Patna ...	25	12	51·6
Gaya ...	21	20	45·7
Shahabad ...	25	10	41·6
Saran ...	31	15	44·5
Champanan ...	16	13	34·18
Muzaffarpur ...	19	13	37·6
Darbhanga ...	25	17	46·

388. *Patna.*—The allotments made to the several Local Boards of this district, and the amount expended by them, are shown below:—

LOCAL BOARD.	Grant for village roads.	Expenditure on village roads.	Grant for sanitation and medical aid.	Expenditure on sanitation and medical aid.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sadar ...	5,000	4,992	2,150	2,021
Dinapore ...	3,000	823	1,400	1,387
Bihar ...	2,500	2,343	700	712
Barh ...	4,000	470	1,100	324

The Local Boards of Dinapore and Barh do not appear to have paid sufficient attention to the repairs of village roads. Dinapore spent only Rs. 823 out of Rs. 3,000 allotted, and Barh only Rs. 470 out of Rs. 4,000. There is also a saving in Barh under the head "Medical and Sanitation," which one would not have expected in such a notoriously unhealthy year.

389. *Gaya.*—The number of meetings and the average attendance in the case of the District Board were up to the standard of the previous year. There was an improvement in both respects in the case of Local Boards, except that of Jahanabad, where a falling off is apparent. All the Local Boards have official Chairmen, except the Sadar Local Board, the Chairman of which, Babu Durga Sanker Bhattacharjee, takes a prominent part in the public affairs of the district.

390. The following figures show the amount spent by each Local Board on the construction and up-keep of village roads:—

NAME.	1893-94. Rs.	1894-95. Rs.
Sadar	8 800	4,299
Nawada	3,723	3,218
Jahanabad	1,919	2,851
Aurangabad	2,080	1,769
Total	16,522	12,137

391. The Local Boards have also under them the management of pounds and ferries and the disbursement of money passed by the District Board for dispensaries and middle schools. Altogether they did a substantial amount of work during the year.

Mr. Macpherson writes:—

“The District Board, as I have said in previous years, forms a useful consultative body, and I have found it, during the last couple of years or so, taking considerable interest in matters of executive detail. Several of the members have done valuable work of this class in the various sub-committees on which they serve; and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Halim, has continued to devote a great deal of attention to his executive duties. The Local Boards are, however, of little use either as consultative or executive bodies, as they practically leave the work to their Chairman and in a less degree the Vice-Chairman. The Sadar Local Board has, however, since its reconstitution during the year under report, proved itself a more useful consultative body than before.

392. *Shahabad*.—The Magistrate states that the general working of the District Board continued to be satisfactory and harmonious as a consultative body. The members on the whole take interest in the affairs of the Board and are willing to give support to the executive in whose hands they are content to leave the direct management. During the year under review ten meetings were held, the average attendance of members having been 10·4 against 10·8 in the preceding year.

393. The following statement shows the grants allotted to the Local Boards for expenditure on their roads and the sums spent:—

NAME OF LOCAL BOARD.	Amount of allotment.	Amount spent.
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
Arrah	4,000	3,862
Buxar	4,000	3,859
Bhabhua	4,000	3,805
Sasaram	5,000	4,933

394. A Sanitary Inspector on a salary of Rs. 40 a month was employed during the year under the Arrah Local Board. Arrangements have been made for another Sanitary Inspector for the whole district on a salary of Rs. 50 a month.

395. Raja Raj Rajeswari Pershad Singh of Surajpura resigned the Vice-Chairmanship of the Sasaram Local Board during the year, as he could not afford time to attend to the duties of the post. The largest number of meetings was held by the Arrah Local Board, and the members of this Board continue to show interest in their work. The number of meetings held by the Sasaram Board was only 8. The Chairman says that there was no more work for the members to discuss, but the Magistrate remarks that the Chairman might probably have found more work for them if he had chosen. The Local Boards continued to have charge of fourth and fifth class roads, primary education, sanitation and pounds.

396. The Magistrate inspected the Local Boards' offices at Buxar, Sasaram, and Bhabhua during the year, and found them generally in good order. The

only non-official Chairman is Babu Chaturbhuj Saha, Chairman of the Arrah Local Board, who, the Magistrate reports, devotes much attention to his duties.

397. *Saran*.—There were altogether 15 meetings held by the District Board, of which two fell through owing to want of a quorum. On an average 13·8 members attended, or 44·5 per cent., against 48·65 in the preceding year. Mr. Slack reports that the standing committees for finance, education and public works did much good work.

398. The number of meetings held by the three Local Boards at Chapra, Siwan, and Gopalganj were 10, 13, and 5 respectively, as against 11, 10, and 6 in the previous year; but of the above 3 fell through at Chapra and as many as 6 at Siwan for want of a quorum. The paucity of meetings at Gopalganj is partly explained by the fact that for three months the Board was without either a Chairman or Vice-Chairman. The work, however, the Magistrate says, did not in any way suffer by this interregnum, as the Subdivisional Officer carried it on with, I presume, the consent of the members. Compared with the previous year there is a falling off in average attendance, except at Gopalganj. The Magistrate says that on the whole the working of the District and Local Boards was satisfactory. Looking at defaults by the Local Boards of Chapra and especially of Siwan, this is a kind-hearted view.

399. *Champaran*.—There is no Local Board in this district. Thirteen ordinary meetings were held by the District Board during the year, in three of which there was no quorum. The members generally took interest in discussing questions of general policy, and no interference was attempted by them in executive matters. Strictly speaking, the whole of the work during the year was, the Magistrate writes, done by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Deputy Inspector of Schools under the orders of the Chairman.

400. *Muzaffarpur*.—During the year 22 meetings were convened by the District Board. Of these 13 were held and 9 had to be adjourned for want of a quorum, mainly due to the death of two of the most active European members and apathy of certain native members in attending the meetings. The Magistrate, who is Chairman, reports, however, that he prevented any hurtful delay by, in each case of failure, holding the adjourned meeting within a week from the date of the adjournment. The average attendance at each meeting was 7·15 against 6·9 of the preceding year. The Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, and Sitamarhi Local Boards convened 9, 7, and 5 meetings respectively during the year, of which 3, 3, and 2 respectively had to be adjourned.

401. No new power was given to any of the Local Boards during the year under report. They continued to administer the grants for village roads and to control the working of cattle pounds.

402. *Darbhanga*.—Seventeen meetings were held by the District Board, in two of which there was no quorum. Out of the 17, 6 were special meetings. The average attendance at each meeting was 11·5 against 11·7 of the preceding year. The attendance of the official members was satisfactory.

403. The three Local Boards at Darbhanga, Samastipur, and Madhubani held 9, 8, and 11 meetings respectively during the year. The attendance at these was fair. The Local Boards are in charge of the village roads and the pounds in their jurisdiction. They have also certain powers with regard to the administration of primary education and general supervision over the works of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools. There are about 700 miles of village roads. A sum of Rs. 12,776 was allotted for their repairs, and the money was made over to the Local Boards for expenditure. Almost the whole of this sum was expended. Each of the Local Boards has got a sub-overseer under them to look after road works. The Magistrate writes:—"The Boards, both District and Local, are useful adjuncts to the administration of this district. I have some doubt, however, whether the amalgamation of the Sadar Local Board with the District Board would not be both an economical and useful measure. The area of roads under the Local Board is small, and could be worked without any increase to the District Board staff." I am inclined to agree with Mr. Tute on this matter, provided the measure is assented to by both of the Boards concerned.

404. It is not easy to give one's opinion in a condensed form, and without writing an essay, on the progress and success, or otherwise, of the system of Local Self-Government in this country. Putting the matter as shortly as I can,

my own opinion is that the experiment has to a certain extent been a success, though not in the way hoped for by its originators. Experience of the working of the system brings into relief the fact that although the different local bodies are, as a rule, extremely useful as consultative bodies and in strengthening the hands of the executive, yet, with a few notable exceptions, they are not fit, and probably never will be fit, to be left to manage their affairs themselves. I have often been struck with the contrast presented between the reports on the working of the District Boards and those on the working of the Municipal Committees. Take, for instance, the accounts of the working of each class of these two bodies in the preceding paragraphs of this report. It will be seen that while the District Boards are generally described as having worked well, the reverse is the case with several of the more important municipalities. The reason of this is to be found in the difference in the class of work required from each body. The District Boards have nothing to do with making assessments and collections; they are not responsible, beyond merely assenting to proposals and voting funds, for the execution of projects or the proper carrying out of other administrative details. Practically the whole responsibility, both as regards provision of funds and carrying out the work, devolves upon the Magistrate-Collector, the District Engineer, and (in a minor degree) the Deputy Inspector of Schools, and their respective staffs, the functions of the Board being in effect only of a consultative character. But with municipalities the case is different. The Municipal Commissioners have to make, or at least to supervise the making of, assessments and collections, and to carry out the whole of the executive work themselves. And in all these *active* duties, whether from *inertia*, dislike to increase taxation, an instinctive shrinking from responsibility, or want of proper appreciation of the rules of sanitation, or from all these failings combined, if left to themselves, they almost invariably fall short of the standard of excellence one would wish to see them attain. It is a regrettable fact, but no less true, that in one municipality after another, any important reform, however patent its need, is, as a rule, only introduced in consequence of direct official pressure. And not only so, but the ordinary administration of each municipality, if not constantly looked into and brought into line by the officers of Government, is almost certain in a short time to fall into a state of *laissez-aller* and disorder.

405. Though I thus feel forced to admit that whatever hopes the founders of the scheme had of their *alumni* ever being able to walk alone have not been realised, yet I think that the scheme has certainly succeeded in being of use, although not in the way anticipated. The District Boards have certainly been an undoubted success in the role of advisers and upholders of the executive; and the system itself is a guarantee that everything is done *coram publico*; it ensures good counsels (or at least discussion) and publicity. That the members do not individually take part in the active work, or only to a very small degree, does not matter. The object is to get the work done, and it is done; and the Board see that it is done; and their usefulness is thus complete. In the case of municipalities also I consider that the system has in a way worked beneficially, notwithstanding the general failure of the municipal bodies to turn out good work, except under pressure. The fact is that the Magistrate instead of being the responsible head of a more or less inefficient body has now become its censor. There are many matters which an overworked officer, if he has to see to them himself, may be forced to let slide; but he will not be content to allow another person to do so. Whatever his own personal failings, he has no compunction in keeping others up to their work. Add to this that Government of late years has particularly insisted upon the Magistrate performing his duties as censor in a very thorough manner. The result is that shortcomings in municipal administration are now much more freely brought to light and criticised, and reform insisted on than formerly was the case when the Magistrate was himself the person chiefly responsible, and there was practically no one to find fault with him.

406. On the whole, however, I doubt very much whether, under the present system, we shall ever, in municipal matters, get beyond a certain limited point; and I am afraid that we have about reached it. Signs are not wanting of an unwillingness among municipal bodies to bestir themselves actively or to listen to advice, and I fear that the feeling is growing. And if this goes on it may

be found in time that the legislation of the last 12 years has weakened the hands of Government to an extent inconsistent with the public interests.

XXXI.—EMPLOYMENT OF MUHAMMADANS.

407. The following table shows the employment of Muhammadans in both the grades of Government service (viz. with salary of above Rs. 100 and of Rs. 100 and under) and the percentage for each district:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF GAZETTED OFFICERS.		NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS HOLDING GAZETTED APPOINTMENTS				MINISTERIAL OFFICERS.			MENIALS.			Percentage of Muhammadans to entire population.	PERCENTAGE OF GAZETTED APPOINTMENTS HELD BY MUHAMMADANS TO TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENTS		Percentage of all employments held by Muhammadans to total number of all employments.
	Above Rs. 100 salary.	Rs. 100 and under.	Above Rs. 100.		Rs. 100 and under.		Total number.	Muhammadans.		Total number.	Muhammadans.			Above Rs. 100.	Rs. 100 and under.	
			1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.		1893-94.	1894-95.		1893-94.	1894-95.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Patna ...	28	2	6	4	2	2	313	74	74	411	170	169	11.36	14.2	100	33.09
Gaya ...	27	2	4	6	...	...	197	25	26	240	117	121	10.6	22.2	Nil	22.1
Shahabad ...	21	...	7	2	...	...	234	43	51	372	146	160	7.1	9.5	...	32.9
Saran ...	23	1	5	4	...	...	232	47	53	364	145	136	12.2	18.1	Nil	31.7
Champanan ...	10	...	2	1	...	...	102	15	16	208	56	56	11.0	10	...	22.1
Muzaffarpur ...	20	2	7	7	...	...	239	46	48	359	140	123	11.7	24.1	Nil	26.7
Darbhanga ...	18	2	1	3	1	2	212	52	43	287	86	94	14.3	16.6	100	29.0
Total ...	155	9	32	27	3	4	1,529	302	311	2,220	860	859	11.43	17.4	44.4	30.6

The percentage of Muhammadans to entire population in this Division is 11.43, while the percentage of gazetted appointments of above Rs. 100 held by them is 17.4. Of nine gazetted appointments of Rs. 100 and under, Muhammadans hold four. In Champaran alone the percentage of appointments held by the Muhammadans in the grades of above Rs. 100 was less than the percentage of their population. In all others it was higher.

408. Mr. Slack writes:—

“In filling up a vacancy I personally always see to what side the local proportion between the Hindus and Mussalmans leans. If it is on the side of the latter, then the selection is made irrespective of religion; if on the former, then the best Mussalman, should he be intellectually capable of doing the work, is chosen.”

409. I am not prepared to entirely subscribe to the latter part of Mr. Slack's rule. Qualifications being equal, it would be right, in the case supposed, to select the Muhammadan competitor. But if the Hindu were undoubtedly the better qualified man of the two, he should be preferred.

XXXII.—POST OFFICES AND TELEGRAPH.

410. The working of these offices continues to be satisfactory. The Magistrate of Darbhanga, however, reports that there were a few instances in which the mail bags with all the letters contained in them were miscarried. He also remarks that the reduction of Samastipur post office from a head office to a sub-office has led to considerable inconvenience. Bearing letters are now delivered a day later than they used to be. Depositors also cannot now withdraw money from the Savings Bank with the same facility as before. As there is a large population in the place, of which the Europeans form a considerable portion, the matter should, the Magistrate thinks, be reconsidered.

411. The following statement shows the number of inland money-order transactions during the year, exclusive of rent and revenue money-orders:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	1893-94.				1894-95.			
	ISSUED.		PAID.		ISSUED.		PAID.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Patna	65,378	Rs. 11,65,479	96,000	Rs. 16,81,078	66,679	Rs. 14,57,046	90,976	Rs. 16,78,022
Gaya	55,416	8,88,408	104,843	16,61,108	58,516	10,58,783	94,601	13,58,161
Bahabad	40,848	7,89,934	101,795	20,19,466	37,537	7,80,657	103,252	21,70,000
Suran	35,507	6,34,543	125,260	19,09,056	40,424	6,90,842	148,224	22,98,732
Champaran	42,755	7,24,418	12,544	1,91,076	40,286	7,74,439	17,645	2,38,071
Muzaffarpur	40,120	7,21,009	77,541	11,52,707	40,762	8,38,510	41,423	7,92,866
Darbhanga	44,025	7,51,349	41,932	6,91,876	53,980	8,43,556	98,080	8,92,163
Total	333,249	57,74,997	589,612	91,06,846	352,054	64,76,842	6,07,681	94,34,084

The steady increase in the transactions, both as regards issues and payments, is a proof of the public appreciation of the post office as a means for remitting money.

412. The following statement shows the Post Office Savings Bank transactions in the last two years:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	DEPOSITS.						WITHDRAWALS.						Total number of accounts open on 31st March.		Total amounts in deposit on 31st March.	
	Number of accounts opened during—		Number of deposits made during—		Amount deposited.		Number of withdrawals.		Amount withdrawn during—		Number of accounts closed.		1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Patna	1,195	1,470	8,241	7,763	Rs. 2,80,446	Rs. 2,89,134	5,547	4,235	Rs. 9,60,281	Rs. 5,17,358	618	799	5,733	8,408	Rs. 6,58,951	Rs. 11,92,073
Bahabad	508	451	5,135	4,741	1,48,750	1,48,808	2,813	3,149	1,30,070	1,73,161	200	311	2,583	2,304	3,60,004	3,37,100
Suran	1,082	745	6,090	5,703	2,03,406	1,70,064	3,002	3,904	1,74,067	1,90,544	525	359	3,661	3,035	4,95,033	4,78,304
Champaran	680	604	4,350	3,808	1,97,028	1,32,879	2,120	2,441	1,07,407	1,20,088	305	328	3,773	668	2,90,488	65,800
Muzaffarpur	231	300	2,287	2,141	50,358	57,113	842	1,046	20,071	4,479	86	209	2,073	1,271	40,764	72,720
Darbhanga	874	511	4,221	3,764	1,20,530	1,08,507	2,122	3,088	1,09,434	87,800	190	189	2,008	2,000	8,63,874	8,61,932
Total	4,961	4,378	34,119	31,170	10,80,684	10,28,105	18,579	20,604	8,80,082	10,44,808	1,806	2,130	19,398	18,123	20,20,823	20,00,540

It will be seen that although the number of accounts opened during the year was slightly larger than in the preceding year, there was a decrease both in the number and the amount of deposits. This is probably owing to the reduction of the limit of the amount which can be annually deposited by each depositor from Rs. 500 to Rs. 200, and of the maximum limit from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 2,000. At the same time the number and amount of withdrawals increased and so did the number of accounts closed. Fewer accounts remained open on the 31st March 1894 than on the last day of the previous year. The total amount in deposit, however, on the last day of the year under report considerably exceeded that on the corresponding day of the previous year, which may be accepted as a mark of the appreciation and confidence of the public.

413. A new railway telegraph office has been opened at Tehta on the Patna-Gaya railway, and an office is expected shortly to be opened at Aurangabad. The Magistrate of Gaya says that a telegraph office at Sherghati and the extension of the telegraph lines down the Eastern Sone Canal to Daudnagar and Arwal and from Nawada to Bihar are much needed. The telegraph office which was opened at Roserah in Darbhanga from the 1st January last has already proved to be self-supporting. The line may, the Magistrate says, with advantage be extended to Mohiuddinagar, Tajpur, and Pusa. He also suggests that the status of the office at Laheriasera may with advantage be raised from third to second class, so that the public may utilise it the whole of the day instead of only during the limited hours now fixed.

414. No mail robbery took place during the year. Two postmen in Muzaffarpur were prosecuted for forging the signatures of a number of payees

of money-orders, and they were tried and convicted and sentenced to undergo different terms of imprisonment.

415. The system of revenue and rent money-orders has been dealt with in section XVII.

XXXIII.—(a) ZAMINDARI DÁK.

416. There was no change in the management of the zamindari dák, which continued under the Postal Department subject to the control of the District Magistrate. The cess is now realised by the Collector, the latest dates of payment in Bihar being fixed by the new tauzi rules as the 29th May and 13th December. The object of the rule was that the demand should fall due 30 days before the first and third land revenue kists; but as the dates for these kists are fixed in Bihar according to the Fasli year, the first of them falls on the 7th June, so that the 6th May should have been the date for the corresponding dák cess kist. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue.

417. The cess has been fixed at the following rates for five years from 1st January 1893:—

		Rs.	A.	P.	
Patna	...	0	8	0	per Rs. 1,000 of Government revenue.
Gaya	...	1	2	0	" " "
Shahabad	...	0	12	0	" " "
Saran	...	1	4	0	" " "
Champanan	...	1	9	0	" " "
Muzaffarpur	...	0	12	0	" " "
Darbhanga	...	1	2	0	" " "

The rate in Shahabad has lately been reduced from 12 annas to 10 annas.

418. The subjoined statement shows the income and expenditure of the dák fund in the several districts during the year under report:—

DISTRICT.			Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance in hand.
1			2	3	4	5
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	...	...	11,369	8,893	6,909	13,358
Gaya	...	...	14,036	16,087	15,515	14,608
Shahabad	...	...	11,548	13,283	10,671	14,160
Saran	...	...	12,016	16,701	11,060	17,657
Champanan	...	...	8,686	9,628	7,663	10,651
Muzaffarpur	...	...	9,463	8,278	9,582	8,159
Darbhanga	...	...	6,256	8,119	8,013	6,362
Total			73,374*	80,989	69,413	84,950
Total for 1893-94			53,913	84,283	64,840	73,306

* This does not tally with the closing balance of the previous year, as there was some mistake in the Muzaffarpur figures for that year.

419. The general working of the Department has been satisfactory.

(b).—FAIRS.

420. The most important fair in this Division is the Sonepur fair in Saran. It lasted for fifteen days from the 6th to 20th November 1894. Owing to prolongation of the rains and the unusual unhealthiness of the year, the number of people who attended the fair was fewer than ordinarily. The sanitary conservancy arrangements were carried out under the supervision of the Magis rate, the District Engineer, the District Superintendent of Police, and the Civil Surgeon. Sixty public latrines were constructed as against 40 in the previous year, and permits for 198 private ones as against 239 in 1893 were issued. A hospital shed, with a native doctor and a compounder in charge, was constructed at a suitable site, and a set of palki-bearers with a *duli* was kept in readiness to convey cholera patients to a shed specially constructed for their treatment at a convenient distance from the fair. In all, 368 cases of sickness were treated, the prevailing causes being diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, and bronchitis. The number of cholera cases was 17. This disease appears to have been imported from the Hajipur subdivision, where it was prevalent. The disease fortunately did not become epidemic. The affected persons were at once removed to the cholera camp, and the localities where the cases occurred disinfected. The arrangements made for conservancy and a good water-supply by pumps from wells did much to prevent the spread of the disease. Considering the unfavourable conditions under which the fair was held—ground damp and drainage bad—the health of the people at Sonepur this year was, the Civil Surgeon considers, remarkably good. The receipts from various sources amounted to Rs. 1,572 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,632, the balance being met from the Government grant of Rs. 3,000 allowed under the head "Fairs" to the Saran district. The District Board, on the recommendation of the Horse Show Committee, however, decided to discontinue the award of prizes to owners of horse stock, for the reason that Bihar is not a horse-breeding country, and they propose in future to grant prizes for cattle instead. An application for the continuance of a portion of the grant of Rs. 400 contributed to the Horse Show Fund by the Government of India and its diversion to the above purpose is under consideration by Government. There are three other principal fairs in this district, namely, the Silhowri, Melhwar, and Thaway fairs, the gatherings at which were estimated at 80,000, 60,000, and 50,000, respectively. Suitable sanitary and conservancy arrangements were made at each. There were four cases of cholera at the last-named fair, of which two proved fatal. There was no outbreak of disease at the other two.

421. In Patna, with the exception of the Rajgir fair, which is triennial, there is no fair deserving special mention.

422. In Gaya the principal fairs are the Bisua and Kartik Purnima held at Salempur, close to Gaya, in April and November, Deokund Baisakhi, and Phaguni mēlas in April and February, and the Rafiganj Bisua mēla held also in April. The attendance at all was about the same as usual. The usual sanitary arrangements were made and no disease broke out in epidemic form in any of the gatherings. No agents of the Gowrakshini Sabha were reported to have preached against kine-killing at any of the fairs as in the previous year.

423. The most important fair in Shahabad is held at Barahpur near Raghunathpur in the Buxar subdivision. It was as usual held twice, once in April and again in February. It is essentially a cattle fair, but horse-dealers also attend. The usual arrangements were carried out in a very efficient manner by Mr. Oldham, the Subdivisional Officer, and Mr. Munro, District Superintendent of Police. There was no sign of any public feeling on the Gowrakshini question. One of the noticeable features of the February fair was the agricultural exhibition which was held in conjunction with it. The idea was Mr. Oldham's, and all the arrangements were successfully carried out by him with the assistance of a local committee. The District Board subscribed Rs. 400 and the Agricultural Department Rs. 250, and other subscriptions were received from some of the zamindars. Mr. Basu was deputed by the Director of Agriculture to give his assistance. Prizes were given for exhibits of field and garden produce and live-stock. The Magistrate reports that the exhibition was a decided success and attracted a large and orderly concourse of sight seers.

No outbreak of disease occurred at either of these large fairs. There are three fairs held at Buxar. They are called the Khichri, Amawas, and Satuan fairs respectively. They are essentially bathing festivals and are usually attended by from two to four thousand people. The principal articles of merchandise exposed for sale in these fairs were piece-goods, brassware, earthenware, and a variety of country manufacture. At the Bhalooni fair in the Sasaram subdivision there was a gathering of 80,000 people. The usual sanitary arrangements were made at the expense of the Maharaja of Dumraon, to whom the village belongs. I believe that there were no cases of cholera at any of the above fairs.

424. In Champaran, as mentioned in last year's report, the chief fairs are Bettiah, Tribeni, and Areraj mēlas. The Bettiah mēla is held about the time of the Durga Puja. The attendance was smaller than the average owing to the inclemency of the weather due to the lateness of the rains. The Tribeni mēla is held at Tribeni on the Gandak on the boundary between Champaran and Nepal. It is held twice in the year. The Areraj mēla is also held twice. The attendance was as usual.

425. The only fair of importance in the Muzaffarpur district is the Sitamarhi fair held during the Ram Navami festival in the month of Chéyt. The Magistrate estimates that over 100,000 persons came to the fair, and about sixty or seventy thousand bullocks. It is widely known as a cattle fair. The sanitary arrangements were effectively made by the local zamindars under the supervision of the Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Egerton, and the Municipal Commissioners. The fair passed off successfully without any outbreak of disease.

426. There are no fairs of any importance in Darbhanga.

(c) POUNDS.

427. The number of pounds and the receipts for the last two years are given in the subjoined statement for the several districts :—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of pounds.	RECEIPTS.	
		1893-94.	1894-95.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
Patna ...	44	6,025	5,234
Gaya ...	73	12,172	12,096
Shahabad ...	36	7,717	6,933
Saran ...	50	4,160	4,702
Champaran ...	85	14,036	12,839
Muzaffarpur ...	167	4,118	3,754
Darbhanga ...	90	6,992	5,292
Total ...	545	55,220	50,850

It will be observed that the falling off in receipts is general.

428. In Champaran most of the pounds were under the khas management of the District Board during the past year. The falling off in receipts there is attributed by the Magistrate to the dishonesty of the pound muharrirs, and the

farming system has been introduced from the beginning of the present year. It already obtains in all the other districts. The Magistrate of Gaya explains the falling off in receipts to be due to smaller sales of impounded cattle. The Magistrate of Shahabad attributes it to the teaching of the Gowrakshini movement. The other Magistrates merely say that the bids obtained at the auction sales were less than at the previous settlement. This is patent enough, and is the point that should have been explained. It is very probable that the Gowrakshini movement may, as Mr. Marindin suggests, have affected the pound receipts, but I should have expected the effect to have been less felt at the settlement for 1894-95 than at those for 1893-94. Possibly the more favourable seasons of 1893-94, as compared with those of the two preceding years, and the consequent better provision of fodder, led to a smaller use of the pounds, and made the undertaking for the time a less paying one than previously. This to my mind is a more likely explanation than that the Gowrakshini movement is still inducing the cultivators to sink their private interests in an increasing degree.

429 The new forms of accounts were introduced, generally, during the year. It is said that the pound keepers find the forms somewhat complicated, but they will no doubt get used to them in time.

XXXIV.—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

430. The two most important institutions under this head in the Division are the Indigo Planters' Association and the Bihar Landholders' Association, of which Sir W. B. Hudson and the Maharaja of Darbhanga are the respective Presidents. Both Associations were frequently consulted during the year on public questions, such as the maintenance of the record of rights, &c.

431. The Congress movement still shows but little vitality in Bihar. It has, I understand, but few adherents among Biharis, although the Bengali community continue to support it with some show of energy.

432. The only social institution in the Patna City is the Bihar Hetaish Library, regarding which the Magistrate of Patna remarks as follows:—

"A fair number of educated men of the city belong to this institution, which is purely a reading club taking in the most important English and vernacular dailies and periodicals. The premises of this Society are situated in the chawk and are small and ill-lighted. During the rains last year a committee was formed with a view to build premises for a library and club on the Mangle's tank. The necessary site has been obtained from the Municipal Commissioners, and all that is now wanting is the necessary funds. Subscriptions to the amount of above three thousand rupees have been collected. Such an institution would be an immense boon to the city, and I hope to be able to carry the proposal through."

433. The Victoria Jubilee Club is supported by the large native society of Bankipore. The club takes in several daily papers and periodicals, and possesses a good billiard table and tennis courts.

434. Regarding the Anjuman-Islamia and the Anjuman-i-Momini Associations at Gaya, the Collector reports as follows:—

"The Anjuman-i-Islamia, representing the Sunni community, was reorganised during the year under a Bengali Muhammadan pleader of the local bar, Maulvi Fazalul Bari, and appears to have devoted its attention principally to the Armenian atrocities, the anti-kine-killing agitation, the Shia Alam question, and the employment of Muhammadans in the public service.

"The other Muhammadan Association, the Anjuman-i-Momini, representing the Shia interests, gave unremitting attention to the Shia Alam question, and was instrumental in getting a memorial on the subject presented to the Government of India."

435. Regarding the branch of the Kayasth Sabha at the same place Mr. Macpherson remarks—

"The Kayasth Sabha has been reorganised during the year with an energetic pleader of the local bar as Secretary, and has held more frequent meetings than before to consider social questions affecting the welfare of the writer caste in Bihar, foremost among them being the curtailment of marriage expenses. The interests of this pushing class of the Bihar community have been seriously affected by the decision of the Kayasth Conference held at Benares during the

year, not to re-admit into caste Mr. Sachitananda Sinha, who has qualified in England as a barrister."

436. The only new association founded during the year, and the only one of its kind in the Division, is the Rate-payers' Association at Arrah. Mr. Marindin thus describes its origin:—

"There was some agitation in the town of Arrah among the rate payers last February against the imposition of the water-rate, and a Rate-payers' Association was formed to protest against the tax. A certain amount of intimidation was practised against persons who continued to use the pipe water, but this was promptly suppressed and the agitation subsided."

437. Mr. Marindin also notices the fact that the annual Muhammadan Education Conference was held at Arrah in February last. A number of maulvis and gentlemen from Dinapore, Chapra, Muzaffarpur, Ghazipur, Benares, Lucknow, the Punjab and other more distant places took part in it.

438. This movement has during the past year lost much of its former vitality, and especially of its influence for mischief as an agitating medium. Many of its principal members have withdrawn their assistance, though the Marwari and shop-keeping class continue to support it. I give the following extracts from the District Officers' reports:—

Patna.—"The Gowrakshini Sabha of the place is principally kept up by the Marwaris, who pay a tithe in the shape of a percentage on all their transactions. The Society maintains a "goshallah" for old and diseased cattle, but disorder and want of method are said to be its leading characteristics."

Gaya.—"The Gaya Gowrakshini Sabha continues to be carried on by the trading class in the town of Gaya, but seems to confine its operations to furthering the humane objects with which it was ostensibly started. The more influential members of the community have withdrawn active co-operation in the movement, since the mischievous results of its teaching in the hands of ignorant and irresponsible agents led to its being regarded with suspicion by the authorities."

Muzaffarpur.—"There is a Gowrakshini Sabha at Sitamarhi and at Hajipur and Lalganj. These institutions still continue to exist, but have not shown any particular activity in the year under report."

Darbhanga.—"The Gowrakshini movement, as far as any political significance is concerned, has died out. The sabhas that exist confine their operations in a half-hearted way to the legitimate objects of their existence, the preservation of sick and old cattle."

STATE OF PUBLIC FEELING AND THE PUBLIC PRESS.

439. In paragraphs 491 to 500 of last year's report, a full account was given of the anti-kine-killing agitation in Bihar during the year 1893 and the first months of 1894, of the riots in several districts which ensued from it, and of the preventive measures which Government were in consequence obliged to take in the Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad districts. It was also stated that the Bakr-Id festival in June 1894 had passed safely without any riotous scenes, with the exception of one case in the Siwan subdivision of the Saran district, where a mob of Hindus had seized a cow from two Muhammadan passers-by. I have now to add that in that case several of the leaders of the mob were judicially punished by the Subdivisional Officer of Siwan, and an additional police force of one head constable and four constables was quartered on the village concerned for three months by way of a warning. There were also, as mentioned in that report, a few cases, some half a dozen in the whole of the Division, where a disposition was shown by the Hindus to interfere with Muhammadan sacrifices, but all these were settled without any disturbance, either by the Muhammadan consenting to substitute a goat or a sheep for his sacrifice, or to hold it in the house of a friend where it was admitted to be an established custom, or by the Magistrate summarily deciding the case on its merits. I may mention that the most important of these cases, as the one most likely to lead to serious consequences, occurred in the heart of the Patna City, where, on the day before the Bakr-Id (of 1894), a wealthy Hindu bannia obstructed a Muhammadan who

was leading a cow along the street to a neighbouring Muhammadan *tolah*. Prompt measures were, however, taken by binding down the offender to keep the peace, and by, at the same time, moving a body of military police from Bankipore into the city; confidence was restored, and the incident ended.

440. Following the Bakr-Id of 1894, the high state of tension between the two sects was perceptibly relaxed, and the ensuing Muharram passed without any display of ill-feeling. The same was the case with the two large cattle fairs at Barahpur in the Shahabad district, which in previous years had been the scene of more than one serious disturbance. During the rest of the year, until certain recent events which will be noticed below, peace has everywhere been maintained; and it is a noticeable fact that in the two districts (Gaya and Shahabad) where the outbreaks in 1893 were most prevalent, and the measure of quartering additional police had to be most largely resorted to, the relations of the two parties may be said to have almost quite regained their former friendly live-and-let-live character, as the following extracts from the District Officers' reports will show. Thus Mr. Macpherson, the Magistrate of Gaya, says:—"It is gratifying to be able to record that the movement against *kine-killing* has not in the slightest degree excited public feeling in a mischievous manner during the year, in spite of the intensity of the agitation on this subject in the early part of the previous year. All the leading members of both the Hindu and the Muhammadan communities have continued to display much good sense and loyal feeling in this matter, which culminated in expressions of genuine mutual tolerance on the occasion of the visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in November and of His Excellency the Viceroy in March," and Mr. Marindin, the Magistrate of Shahabad, remarks:—

"The influence of the Gowrakshini Sabhas in the district appeared to have pretty well died out by the commencement of the year. A good deal of anxiety, however, was felt at the time of the large cattle fair at Barahpur in April, and at the Bakr-Id of 1894, and special precautions were taken to be in readiness to suppress any disturbance which might arise. No disturbance took place, and there was no sign of ill-feeling at the Barahpur *mêla*, or at the Bakr-Id, between the Hindus and Muhammadans. The relations between the two races seemed in fact to be entirely amicable, and the Muhammadans were particularly careful not to do anything which would insult the religious prejudices of the Hindus, while the latter raised no objection to the customary sacrifices."

441. The reports from the other districts have also (with the exception referred to above) been, throughout the past year, of the same re-assuring character.

442. At the same time it is not to be supposed that the fanatical feeling which this mischievous agitation excited has yet been everywhere quenched; nor can those who fostered it expect that the desire for retaliation, which they have foolishly aroused in the opposite party, will suddenly die away and be no more felt. The embers still remain, and the position, I fear, will have to be one of anxious watchfulness for some time to come.

443. A week before the end of the year under report a serious outbreak occurred at a village called Mathurapur in the Shewhar thanna of Muzaffarpur, on the border of the Champaran district. The village consists of 69 houses of Hindus and 21 of Muhammadans. It appears that the Muhammadans had for many years past an unroofed and unused (?) masjid in the outskirts of the village. This they recently roofed and otherwise improved, and on the 22nd March last they recommenced using the renovated building. The Hindus immediately commenced blowing shells and making other noises to annoy the Muhammadans whenever they assembled for prayers. The Muhammadans, according to the Magistrate's report, bore this in silence, persevering, however, in the use of the mosque. Meanwhile, according to the Hindu story, a report got about that the Muhammadans intended on the occasion of the Id-ul-Fitr (29th March) to sacrifice a calf at the mosque. The Muhammadans deny any such intention, and the District Magistrate, Mr. Hare, has recorded his opinion that this was a made-up story, and that it was the call to prayers, the "*Azan*," which aroused the anger of the Hindus. Be this as it may, on the 28th March a large crowd of Hindus armed with *lathis*, numbering several hundreds, assembled from the neighbouring villages, and made

a savage attack on the small Muhammadan population, twenty-three of whom were wounded principally from *lathi* blows, several of them severely, having their arms or legs broken (including a woman whose arm was broken). The police sub-inspector, who went to the spot with two constables, was chased away, and on the following day, when he again appeared to hold an enquiry, the mob of Hindus re-assembled and again hunted him from the spot. Finally, the District Superintendent of Police, with a body of police, arrived, and the enquiry was continued. The result of the case was that some 26 of the rioters were convicted and punished by the District Magistrate, and a body of additional police, consisting of 10 constables and 2 officers, have been quartered on the offending villages for 15 months (in order to cover the period of next year's Bakr-Id).

444. But this unfortunately is not all. Within a few miles of Mathurapur, both on the Muzaffarpur and on the Champaran side of the border, are a number of villages containing a strong Muhammadan element of a Pathan source. It became rumoured that these people, in revenge for the treatment of their co-religionists at Mathurapur, had resolved to sacrifice at the coming Bakr-Id more cows than usual, and that the Hindus were determined to prevent them. Every possible precaution was taken by the Magistrate of each district, especially in Champaran, where the danger appeared greatest. The Magistrate, Mr. E. G. Colvin, and District Superintendent, Mr. Tucker, personally visited the disaffected villages during the days immediately preceding the Bakr-Id. After an infructuous attempt to bring the two parties to an amicable agreement, the Magistrate, after due enquiry, summarily decided where sacrifices were or were not to be held; a number of the leaders on both sides were made special constables, or bound down to keep the peace; and bodies of armed police from the district reserve and from the military police detachment at Bankipore were posted in selected central positions. The result was that on the Muzaffarpur side of the border, where the recent lesson of additional police was probably taken more to heart than in the neighbouring district, everything passed off quietly. So also in the villages in Champaran where the precautions I have described were taken. But the fanatical feeling had spread beyond this line of defence, and large crowds of Hindus suddenly appeared in places where no disturbance was anticipated, bent upon attacking the Muhammadans wherever they could find them. Thus a Muhammadan village called Bara Fureed, where it is believed no sacrifice took place, was wantonly attacked by a mob who had been disappointed by finding armed police at another place against which they had originally proceeded; while close to the Dhaka thana and in other directions mobs assembled, and were only dispersed by the personal efforts of the District Superintendent of Police or other police officers, and with considerable difficulty. But the worst feature of all was a most inexcusable outrage committed on the large Muhammadan village of Bijai on the 8th June 1895, after the Bakr-Id was over. The alleged cause appears to be that a Hindu, a few days previously, passing through the village, had been abused and assaulted. It seems doubtful if this is true, but in any case it did not warrant the subsequent conduct of the Hindu mob. The entire village was gutted; nearly all the houses, to the number of about 80, were burnt; everything that could be carried away of any value was looted; the men, wherever they could be caught, were mercilessly beaten, and the women stripped of their ornaments. Two indigo-planters, who were present and did all they could to restrain the mob, but in vain, witnessed the whole occurrence.

445. Some 40 odd arrests have been made in this case (which has since been committed to the sessions). Other arrests have been made in the Dhaka and Bara Fureed cases, which are under trial by the District Magistrate. Mr. Colvin has also submitted proposals for quartering additional police in the disturbed tracts, which I have forwarded to Government for orders.

446. It is a matter for profound regret that the period of peace, which the Division has experienced for the last eighteen months (since the Basantpur riot in September 1893), should have been thus suddenly broken into. The only satisfaction, if it may be called so, is that the disturbances so far are local and can be traced to a local cause. There are no signs of their having been fomented, as was the case two years ago, by outside agency. This affords hope that they will spread no further.

447. This curious movement was noticed in paragraph 502 of last year's report, where its characteristics were described. The opinion I then ventured to give of its origin was subsequently accepted by the Government of India, and has not yet, I think, been gainsayed. The most noticeable result of the movement was a series of the most silly alarmist letters, by a number of anonymous writers, that have probably ever appeared in the European press of this country. This movement and the subsequent "tree blazing" which took its place have since spasmodically reappeared for a few days here and there—the work doubtless of superstitious individuals who believe in its efficacy to ward off evil of some sort or other. As remarked by the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, the good crop of mangoes this year will no doubt be largely ascribed to this measure, and will justify it in the eyes of the common people.

The tree-daubing mystery.

448. Regarding the feeling on this subject, the Collector of Muzaffarpur makes the following observations, with which I agree:—

The Cadastral Survey.

"The survey and record of rights does not excite any strong opposition except from a very few landlords. There are many landlords no doubt who view with alarm any curtailment of the power which the absence of a reliable record gives them. But I think the feeling is growing among the better class of landlords that the record will strengthen their hands in many ways.

"The general discredit into which the landlords' papers had fallen affected the mass of honest landlords most seriously and rendered it impossible in many cases to sue with any chance of success. The raiyats perhaps expect more from the record of rights than it will give them, many of them hoping to secure substantial reductions of rent. But the actual settlement proceedings have passed off very quietly—a sure sign that, whatever their first expectations, they have not been unreasonable in their demands."

449. The Collector of Champaran on the same subject observes as follows:—

"It was found that in one of the villages of the Bettiah Raj the raiyats had in a large number of instances encroached on land which was not originally settled with them, and the result has been an increase of about 14 per cent. in rents in those villages in which application for settlement of rent was made, i.e. in about one-third of the whole area cadastrally surveyed in the preceding season. The tenants, whose rates have always been exceptionally low, seemed to recognise the justice of the settlement, and in many cases effected willing compromises with their landlords. The settlement does not seem to have given rise to any ill-feeling between the tenant and landlord, and has no doubt done much to prevent any such feeling arising in the future."

450. Considerable interest has lately been aroused among the Hindu and Buddhist communities by an attempt which was made in February last by Mr. Dharampala, accompanied by two Buddhist priests, to enshrine an image of Budha, said to be of great antiquity, by a celebrated Japanese artist, in the temple. The image, after being placed in the temple, was removed from it by the followers of the Mohunt of Budh Gaya, who are also charged with having disturbed Mr. Dharampala in his performance of worship. The case has formed the subject of a criminal complaint which is still pending decision before the Magistrate of Gaya.

The Budh Gaya Temple case.

451. At the instance of the Magistrate of Saran, the route to be taken by the last of the four regiments which passed through that district during the past cold weather was changed, so as to allow of the men being marched through the centre of the district instead of along its southern edge where the people showed no particular signs of restlessness. The impression created by this measure on the minds of the people was, the Magistrate thinks, conducive to the maintenance of order, and Mr. Slack suggests that in the coming trooping season the regiments detailed to pass through his district should be required to follow the same route. In this I concur.

March of reliefs through the northern districts.

452. The excitement caused by the march of the reliefs through the northern districts, to which the inhabitants were unaccustomed, is thus described by the Collector of Darbhanga:—

“The movement of troops through the district was also a great element of excitement. When the first relief went through, the villages were deserted by the women. The men came round in crowds to stare at the soldiers, and on one occasion when the soldiers burst into a cheer for some reason, the spectators fled across country in the greatest terror. The men at other camps used this simple device to rid themselves of a staring throng when they were eating their food. The movement of the second relief caused even greater excitement; they were Beluchis, and their advent was regarded with dread. It took all the tact of the European residents and educated native gentlemen to assure the people that they had nothing to fear. The troops were models of good behaviour during their march through the district. I had not a single complaint from any one.

453. *Patna*.—The two leading papers published at Patna are the *Bihar Herald* and the *Bihar Times*, both weekly papers, in English, with about 500 and 600 subscribers respectively. The tone of both papers is moderate. Another paper published in English is the *Patna Institute Gazette* with 150 subscribers. The vernacular papers are the *Bihar Bandhu*, a monthly Hindi journal with 500 subscribers, and the *Alpanch*, a weekly Urdu paper with some 400 subscribers.

454. *Gaya*.—The only papers published in this district are two weekly ones of a semi-comic character, in Urdu, called the *Gaya Punch* and the *Shohrai Ajaq*, the former edited by a Sunni and the latter by a Shiah. The Magistrate says that each has influence in its own circle, and there is nothing, he understands, objectionable in either.

455. *Shahabad*.—The *Bihar Patriot*, started last year by a local pleader, has ceased to exist.

456. There are no local newspapers in any of the other districts, but in all of them there are presses from which pamphlets of various kinds issue, and which take up local printing jobs.

457. The circulation of English and native papers printed elsewhere was noticed in paragraph 510 of last year's report. I have nothing to add to the remarks there made.

XXXVI.—CONDUCT OF ZAMINDARS.

458. As a class the zamindars of Bihār are loyal and willing to co-operate with the authorities in matters of public good and usefulness. The estates of the great landholders are, as a rule, well and systematically managed, and the tenants have but little real cause of complaint. Indeed, in some of the larger estates, such as the Bettiah Raj, they occupy their holdings on remarkably easy terms. But in the small subdivided and co-parcenery properties the case is as a rule very different. In such a property the rent of each field is of importance to the petty and grasping malik, and every possible opportunity is taken to enhance it, whether by fair means or foul, resulting in a state of constant friction and harassment of the raiyats. The only real remedy for this is a survey and record of rights such as is now being made in the northern districts of this Division.

459. In Gaya the Collector, Mr. D. J. Macpherson, reports that the only considerable zamindar whose conduct has attracted unfavourable notice is the Raja of Maksudpur, who has in his employ agents who do not hesitate to act very oppressively towards the tenants. Most of the leading zamindars of the district, the Collector adds, are not as a rule wise in the selection of their agents, whose attitude, as well as that of their masters, towards the raiyats is, generally speaking, unsympathetic. There has, however, been no general question of late to lead to any unusual differences. The zamindars of his district are as a body thoroughly loyal to Government, and the visits of His Excellency the Viceroy and of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor during the year called forth enthusiastic demonstrations of this feeling.

460. The premature death of the Maharaja of Dumraon, which occurred in the early part of the year under review, was noticed in paragraph 516 of last year's report. The widowed Maharani and the Dewan Rai Jai Prokash Lal!

Bahadur, C.I.E., were appointed joint-executors of the will of the deceased nobleman, under the terms of which the latter has retained the position of Manager which he held during the Maharaja's lifetime. Mr. Marindin, the Collector of Shahabad, remarks as follows:—

"As far as their relations with Government are concerned, the zamindars have shown every disposition to give the authorities loyal support when called upon to do so, and in connection with the arrangements made to maintain peace at the Barahpur fair and at the Bakr-Id the names of Rai Jai Prokash Lall Bahadur, C.I.E., and Raja Raj Rajeswari Prasad Singh, of Surajpura, deserve favourable mention. The Subdivisional Officer of Sasaram also gives the Raja of Surajpura credit for endeavouring to improve the sanitation of his village. The best administered estates in the district are the Jugdispur estates, belonging to Messrs. Thompson, Burrows, and Mylne, which are under the immediate management of Mr. L. H. Mylne and Mr. Ernest Mylne, where everything seems to be conducted in a businesslike and methodical way, and attention is paid to the welfare of the raiyats, who seem thoroughly contented."

461. In Saran the Maharaja of Hutwa's estate continues to be well managed, and care is taken to protect the raiyats when any village is leased out. The Maharaja, as noticed in previous reports, is a liberal supporter of useful public institutions and defrays the entire expenses of three charitable dispensaries and a high school. His example is unfortunately not followed by the other leading resident zamindars of the district. The Collector states that the Chainpur Babus, with the exception of Babu Damoodar Deo Narain Singh, have shown no signs of endeavouring to make up their family disputes which have seriously involved most of them and caused them to become of little account in the district. Rai Mahabir Prasad Sah Bahadur, of Goldenganj, makes but little benevolent use of his means, and is reported to be a grasping and hard landlord. With the exception of the two well-managed estates of the Maharaja of Hutwa and of the Dowager Maharani of Bettiah, and of the properties of the above-mentioned landlords, the land of the district is almost entirely held by hundreds of petty proprietors. The Collector remarks:—"With regard to obtaining private persons public-spirited enough to come forward and carry out works of public utility, the outlook is becoming year by year more and more narrowed."

462. In Champaran the management of the Bettiah estate was conducted with his usual ability by Mr. T. M. Gibbon, C.I.E. He has now been obliged to proceed on leave to Europe owing to ill-health, and his place has been taken by Mr. T. R. Lewis. Towards the end of the year the Shazada of Ramnagar appointed Mr. Broncke as manager of his estate. It is too early yet to say what influence the new manager will have in counteracting the counsels of the young man's evil advisers. The long-standing friction between the Madhubani Babu and his raiyats again showed itself to some extent in connection with the survey proceedings, but it is hoped that the new manager, Pandit Thakur Prasad, may be able to re-establish friendly feeling.

463. In Muzaffarpur the Collector has nothing to say under this head, beyond mentioning that the survey proceedings have been nearly completed in the Hajipur subdivision and have been conducted with singularly little friction, and that the relations between landlord and tenant are on the whole satisfactory.

464. In Darbhanga the Madhubani Babus' affairs are in as unsettled a state as ever, but there has been no serious disturbance arising from them during the year of report. The Collector writes:—"I received the most cordial aid from the Maharaja and all other zamindars through whose property the troops passed last winter. The Maharaja provided all *rassad* free of cost, and every one helped as far as they could to make the passage of the troops comfortable."

The Maharaja's large estate continues under the management of Mr. Henry Bell. The Maharaja's liberality in supporting the large male and female hospitals and dispensaries at the northern end of the town of Darbhanga, besides several other dispensaries at villages in the interior, is well known to Government. I have already brought to the favourable notice of Government the munificence of Rai Ganga Prasad Singh Bahadur in making a handsome donation of over Rs. 18,000 to the Darbhanga Municipality for the construction and fitting out of a new dispensary and hospital at Laheria Sarai. The hospital

will supply a want which has hitherto been very much felt at the southern end of the town of Darbhanga, and I hope to see the building shortly commenced on a site which I have recommended should be granted free of cost by Government.

XXXVII.—GENERAL REMARKS.

465. In paragraph 527 of last year's report a short account was given of the progress of the scheme initiated by Mr. Louis Mylne, of Jagdispur, for the purpose of bringing under cultivation the grant of land made to his father by the Government in Burma, by the transfer to it of families of cultivators from his estate in Shahabad. It was there stated that up to the end of 1893-94 over 100 families, chiefly of the "Koeri" caste, numbering in all some 400 souls, had accepted the terms offered and were settled on the grant. I am now informed by Mr. Mylne of the continued success of the experiment. During the year ending 31st March 1895, 76 families, consisting of 84 adult males, 82 adult females and 129 children, have joined the former settlers from the Jagdispur estate. Of these 76 families, as many as 67 were of the "Koeri" class, the remaining nine families consisting of Chamars, Kandus, Lohars, and Nunnias.

466. Mr. Mylne has also favoured me with a very interesting account of the working of an agricultural bank which he and his brother have established for the use of the cultivators on their Jagdispur estate. The bank has now been in operation for ten years, and some idea of the extent of its transactions may be formed from the following figures which show the average annual operations for a period of nine years ending 31st May 1893:—

	Rs.
(1) Debit balances outstanding in the hands of borrowers at the end of previous year	91,132
(2) Add amount of current year's advances	1,25,472
(3) Add balance ditto of interest account	12,401
(4) Total due by debtor cultivators	2,29,005
(5) Cash realised during the year	1,20,000
(6) Debit balance carried forward to succeeding year	1,09,005

It will be seen that item (5) is about 55 per cent. of item (4), so that about 45 per cent. of the debt has been carried forward, taking one year with another, during the nine years' operations. The realisations varied, Mr. Mylne informs me, year by year, from 45 to 68 per cent. of the aggregate debts due.

467. Advances are made under the personal supervision of Mr. Mylne and his brother, and only after careful consideration of the borrower's separate advance and rent accounts, of his character for steadiness, and the likelihood of his being able within a reasonable time to repay the loan. Enquiries are also made as to the man's other debts, and it is a strict rule that no account is opened with any tenant who has an open running account elsewhere or whose debts are in any way unadjusted. Where this is found to be the case, and the debtor is a good and deserving raiyat, Mr. Mylne not unfrequently settles the mahajan's account and transfers it to his own books, in the hope that the cultivator, with proper encouragement, will in time recover himself; or he allows the raiyat to give a portion of his holding in usufructuary mortgage (*rehan*) to the mahajan, so that at least interest may not continue to accrue against him. Mr. Mylne on this point observes:—

"I consider this a much better plan than repayment in instalments secured by a registered deed; for while in respect of his principal the mahajan is in possession of his security, realising interest from the profits of cultivating the land, there is an ever-present incentive to the cultivator to save and pay off his debt and recover the bit of 'jote' in the mahajan's possession. Whereas, if required to pay by instalments, he almost invariably defaults, incurring what might be called penal rates of interest on such unpaid instalments."

468. The rate of interest charged by the bank is 12 per cent. against the ordinary mahajan's rate of 24 per cent. on cash advances, and 30 per cent. on advances and recoupments in kind. Mr. Mylne states that he has practically succeeded in ousting the mahajan from his estate; or, where this has not been done, in causing him to reduce his rate of interest to that charged by the bank. He seems to doubt, however, whether the ultimate result of this will be for the raiyat's real good, and whether it will not in the end rather encourage the very strong tendency among the cultivators "to look upon their occupancy holdings as a source of infinite credit and a bank to be drawn upon at will."

EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE OF ASOKA'S CLASSIC CAPITAL OF PATALIPUTRA.

469. During the year of report the excavation of "Upagupta's Hermitage Hill" (Chhotti-Pahari) and of the "Fine Residuary Relic Stupas" (Bara Pahari), the sites of which had previously been identified by Dr. Waddell, was undertaken under the personal supervision of the Collector of Patna, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell. The following description of the work is given by the Officiating Collector, Mr. Inglis:—

"The work was commenced at the end of October 1894, the Sadar kanungo being placed in charge. A trench 12 feet wide was dug directly northwards into the Bara Pahari. When nearing the centre of the hill, this trench was widened, and when the excavation had been carried down to 30 feet the work was stopped. In the course of the excavations nothing of interest was found. The hill is composed of brick rubble. In fact the excavation would almost make one believe that the place had been a vast kiln. Subsequently Mr. O'Donnell decided to deepen the pit and to excavate to 40 feet. An overseer was appointed, and the work of deepening, which also included widening the whole, was commenced in February 1895. It was continued to middle of March without anything of archaeological interest being brought to light. The work at Chhotti Pahari brought to light a circular wall, apparently that of a watch-tower. The wall is some five feet thick, and is composed of brick tiles rather more than a foot square by an inch and a half to two inches thick. After excavating to twenty feet, tiled flooring of the same material was found. This again further was excavated to four feet, at which depth water prevented any further work, and the excavations at this spot were abandoned.

"Out of one thousand rupees, the amount sanctioned by Government for this work, a sum of Rs. 576 has been expended."

470. Under the orders of Government since received, the excavations will be continued during the ensuing cold weather by the local officers in consultation with Dr. Waddell.

VISIT OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE VICEROY AND LADY ELGIN TO BIHAR.

471. The year was signalised by the first visit ever paid to the district of Gaya by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. The following account is taken from the Collector's report:—

"Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Elgin arrived on the 30th of March and stayed at Gaya until the 2nd of April. On arrival, an address of welcome was presented by the Municipal Commissioners, to which His Excellency replied, and on the afternoon of the same day Her Excellency opened the Zenana Hospital of the Lady Dufferin Fund. In the evening the town of Gaya was illuminated, the inhabitants lighting up each his own house; and the outlines of the adjoining hills blazed with bonfires. Next day the Viceroy paid a private visit to the Mahabodhi Temple at Budh Gaya. On the 1st of April, their Excellencies visited the city and were received with interesting ceremonies by the Gayawal priests at the Vishnupad Temple. In the evening there was a reception at which the leading residents of the district presented an address to the Viceroy, who made an important speech in reply. The Countess of Elgin also paid a private visit to the female ward of the Pilgrim Hospital."

472. Leaving Gaya early on the 2nd April, their Excellencies arrived at Bankipore at 10-25 A.M., where, after being met at the station by the principal civil and military officers, they were presented with addresses of welcome at the Chajjubagh House by the Patna Municipal Commissioners and District

Board, and by the Bihar Landholders' Association, to which His Excellency replied. In the afternoon His Excellency visited the Patna Opium Factory, and in the evening a reception of the principal European and native residents was held and a display of fireworks given. On the following day His Excellency visited the Bihar Industrial School, the Patna College, the Oriental Library and the Bankipore Hospital, and Her Excellency paid a visit to the Beveridge (female) ward of the last-mentioned institution and to the "Duchess of Teck's" Zenana Hospital (not yet opened) in the Patna City. Their Excellencies proceeded up-country by special train leaving at 10 P.M. the same evening.

473. Both at Gaya and Bankipore their Excellencies were welcomed with much loyal enthusiasm by the people. They were also attended during their stay at each place by a well turned-out escort of the Bihar Light Horse.

VISITS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR TO BIHAR.

474. On the 23rd April His Honour Sir Charles Elliott, attended by the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton, paid a visit to Arrah and opened the municipal water-works on the afternoon of the same day. On the following morning the head works on the river Sone were visited, His Honour returning to Calcutta the same afternoon.

475. In the cold weather His Honour made an extended tour from the 17th November until the 3rd December in the Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Saran, and Gaya districts, in the course of which a number of the settlement camps in these districts were visited and various other inspections made. The subdivisions of Siwan and Gopalganj in Saran, Nawada in Gaya, and Bihar in the Patna district, were visited, and a stay of five days was made at Gaya, during which the Budh Gaya Temple, the Vishnupad Temple, and other objects of interest in the vicinity, including the various public offices, were all in turn inspected. His Honour and Lady Elliott, who accompanied him throughout the tour, were everywhere received with the same display of loyal feelings and respect as were later on shown during the visit of their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Elgin.

476. Ample proofs were on all sides forthcoming to show how much these visits by the Heads of both the Supreme and Local Governments were appreciated by all classes of the people. Wrapped up as they are in their own local affairs, they are particularly gratified at the evidence thus afforded of the interest taken by their Rulers in local matters and in the details of district administration.

**RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1894-95.**

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.—SEPARATE REVENUE.

Darjeeling, the 1st October 1895.

RESOLUTION—No. 642T.F.

READ—

The Report of the Board of Revenue on the Administration of the Salt Department for the year 1894-95.

The main feature of the year has been the great increase in the importation of salt and in the quantity remaining uncleared at the end of the year, for which provision had to be made in bonded warehouses in Calcutta. The chief administrative change has been the extension of facilities for the removal of salt under bond from the Government warehouses or from shipboard to warehouses appointed or licensed under the Sea Customs Act, or the Inland Bonded Warehouse Act of 1887. With this object the rules on this subject were remodelled so as to allow larger percentage for wastage, and to render more easy the weighing and transport of the salt. Very small use, however, has as yet been made of these facilities, and the amounts bonded under the new rules were insignificant. The Board received during the year an interesting report by Mr. Ashton of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department, who was deputed to enquire into the extent of illicit manufacture of salt on the sea-coast of Bengal, excluding Orissa, and this subject, together with various proposals affecting the salt administration, is now under the consideration of Government.

2. The receipts and charges of the Salt Department during each of the last six years are shown by the Board as follows:—

HEADS.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	Increase in 1894-95 compared with 1893-94.	Decrease in 1894-95 compared with 1890-91.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RECEIPTS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Imperial—</i>							
Import duty on salt ...	2,25,63,826	2,30,05,057	2,30,34,019	2,40,16,650	2,36,63,003	2,44,41,900	7,77,888
Excise ditto ...	1,08,310	3,21,044	46,457	2,01,678	61,232	86,787	35,555
Total ...	2,27,02,136	2,33,27,701	2,30,80,456	2,42,18,328	2,37,23,194	2,45,28,687	8,13,493
<i>Provincial—</i>							
Rent of warehouses ...	90,100	93,545	83,210	53,634	43,045	1,04,351	61,268
Miscellaneous ...	34,969	26,930	(a) 23,593	(a) 46,633	(a) 39,408	(a) 46,559	7,151
Total ...	1,27,069	1,20,444	1,12,103	1,00,267	82,453	1,50,910	68,417
TOTAL RECEIPTS ...	2,39,09,205	2,55,17,145	2,40,92,559	2,43,18,595	2,38,07,647	2,46,89,597	8,61,910
CHARGES.							
<i>Imperial—</i>							
Salaries, establishments, and contingencies.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Compensation paid under convention with the French Government.	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	...
Refunds of customs duty on salt	2,36,190	2,00,364	2,01,109	1,54,442	1,84,658	1,78,267	6,391
Total ...	2,36,190	2,20,364	2,21,109	1,74,442	2,04,658	1,98,267	6,391
<i>Provincial—</i>							
Salaries, establishments, and contingencies.	46,321	66,253	51,613	1,34,595	26,838	52,236	35,323
Refunds other than customs and excise duty.	...	...	5	83	...	72	72
Total ...	46,321	66,253	51,613	1,34,678	26,838	52,308	25,400
<i>Imperial—</i>							
Charges of the Orissa Salt Department.	1,07,994	1,10,466	1,33,003	1,51,563	(b) 1,29,277	(b) 1,54,024	24,747
TOTAL CHARGES ...	4,10,008	4,08,118	4,08,723	4,50,633	3,60,773	4,04,589	43,816
Approximate net revenue ...	2,24,99,200	2,51,09,087	2,36,80,836	2,38,67,972	2,34,46,914*	2,42,85,008	8,38,094

* Revised figures received from the Accountant-General, Bengal.

(a) Includes the cost price of salt manufactured under the direct management of Government in Orissa.

(b) Details are given in the statement in paragraph 46 of the Report.

N.B.—There appears to be an error in the Board's figures against the sub-head "Miscellaneous" under Provincial Receipts, as explained by foot-note (a). The "cost price" of salt, or rather the sale-price ex duty of salt manufactured in Orissa, and also the portion of the other miscellaneous receipts which is realised in Orissa, are Imperial receipts.

This statement brings out very clearly the leading features of the salt trade for the last ten years. It shows side by side the progressive increase in the quantity of salt imported, and the rapid decline, broken by occasional fluctuations, in the manufacture of local salt. The absence of entries under the head Excise salt in auruings after the year 1887-88 marks the disappearance of *punga* salt made by boiling, which at one time furnished the entire supply of salt for Bengal, and which lingered on under difficulties as a local industry in Orissa until the last licenses were cancelled a few years ago. The stock of salt in the golas at the close of the year was over 36 lakhs of maunds, far exceeding the closing stock of any of the preceding nine years. In addition to this stock there were 7,02,189 maunds afloat in the port of Calcutta ready to be sold direct to purchasers.

5. The combined imports into Calcutta and Chittagong show a net increase of 25,05,074 maunds, or 24.1 per cent. over those of the previous year; but Chittagong had again a decrease of 83,776 maunds. This is attributed partly to the large stock brought forward from the previous year, and partly to the fact that the space available for salt in ships visiting Chittagong for the purpose of the export trade in rice and jute was to some extent taken up for the import of railway material at rates of freight higher than salt could afford to pay.

The following statement shows the different countries and places from which shipments of salt were made:—

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	Percentage of quantity imported for each group in 1892-93.	Percentage of quantity imported for each group in 1893-94.	Percentage of quantity imported for each group in 1894-95.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. United Kingdom	Mds. 59,40,724	Mds. 65,04,081	Mds. 78,03,440	63.3	62.8	58.3
II. Hamburg	9,38,190	7,46,700	17,63,006	7.6	7.8	13.6
III. Trieste	.....	53,370	.....	.....	.....	.....
Adelaide	.....	128	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rio de Janeiro	.....	14,807	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ras Rawayah	1,00,872	4,71,390	8,67,830	.....	.....	.....
Muscat and other States	7,27,481	4,39,317	4,35,864	.....	.....	.....
IV. Aden	9,99,718	15,60,054	11,38,547	20.5	24.0	22.0
Hanjam	.....	.....	2,70,151	.....	.....	.....
Linga	.....	2,27,589	1,70,017	.....	.....	.....
V. Madras	73,940	47,355	22,759	7	4	2
VI. Bombay	6,43,693	5,03,616	6,88,472	5.7	4.9	5.4
Total	93,83,306	1,08,58,903	1,28,63,877	100.0	100.0	100.0

The increase in imports into Calcutta was mainly contributed by the United Kingdom, Hamburg, Ras Rawayah, Hanjam, and Bombay. The trade in salt from Turkish Arabian ports in the Red Sea has developed greatly of late years, and an officer in the service of the Turkish Government visited India lately with the object of extending it further. The consignments from Aden were reduced by heavy rains, which destroyed a large quantity of the salt at that port. The imports from Madras show a falling off, but the salt trade between that port and Calcutta has always been most uncertain.

6. Including Bombay and Madras salt cleared free of duty in Calcutta, duty was paid on 69,40,855 maunds of salt cleared from ship-board, against 60,65,233 maunds cleared in the previous year, while the clearances from bond fell from 38,99,085 maunds to 34,81,646 maunds. Four hundred maunds of salt were cleared during the year for the first time from each of the newly established bonded warehouses at Khulna and Balasore. On the whole the total clearances of all kinds, including those of excise salt, rose from 99,93,712 maunds to 1,04,62,366 maunds.

7. Deducting from the above clearances the net exports from Bengal amounting to 7,07,717 maunds, and adding 27,175 maunds, being the quantity of salt made in saltpetre manufactories, the balance of salt left for consumption in Bengal during 1894-95

was 97,81,824 maunds, against 95,27,355 maunds in the preceding year. The rate of consumption per head, after allowing for a rather excessive yearly rate of increase (10·45 per mille in the population since last census, is shown as 5 seers 2 chittacks against 4 seers 15 chittacks in 1893-94. The consumption of the saliferous tracts, excluding Orissa, calculated on the same rate of increase, amounted to 5 seers 2 chittacks against 4 seers 15 chittacks in 1893-94. The lowest rates were in Midnapore, 4 seers 6 chittacks, Howrah and the 24 Parganas, 4 seers 13 chittacks. In the other parts of the tract the rate of consumption equalled or exceeded that of the rest of the Province. The accuracy of these figures, based on the records afforded by rowannas, has been discussed in a separate correspondence with the Government of India, and it is believed that they possess a fair degree of accuracy, but cannot be implicitly relied on. The Board attribute this increase to the comparative cheapness of salt during the year, the abundant harvest, and the vigilance of the police. The average rate of consumption per head in Orissa was 9·16 lbs. against 10·54 lbs. in the previous year. The decrease of 1·38 lb. is partly accounted for by the fact that a quantity of Ganjam salt imported into Cuttack used to be forwarded thence to Sambalpur; this source of supply has now been replaced by Bombay salt since that place was connected with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. On the other hand it is known that the population of the Tributary Mahals, which is included in that of Orissa, is partly supplied from Midnapore, so that salt imported from that quarter and not credited to Orissa may be set against salt exported from Orissa but credited to it.

8. The price of salt was generally lower than in the previous year, the decrease being due to abundant supplies. The average wholesale price (exclusive of duty) of 100 maunds of Liverpool salt, purchased from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta fell from Rs. 77-12-11 to Rs. 60-10-6, being a decrease of Rs. 17-2-5, or nearly 2 annas 9 pie per maund. The average wholesale price for the whole Province, including duty, at the nine chief wholesale marts of Bengal (Appendix B) fell from Rs. 3-11-6 to 3-9-1 per maund, or 2 annas 5 pies per maund. The corresponding average based on the wholesale prices of all the districts in Bengal (Appendix A) fell from Rs. 3-14-3 per maund to Rs. 3-12-19—a decline of only 1 anna and 5 pies per maund, so that the retail dealers got the benefit of only about one half of the reduction in the price to the first-hand purchaser.

9. The total imports from Madras and the Upper Provinces of duty paid salt fell from 5,52,228 maunds to 4,29,120 maunds during the year, the decrease being due to the lower prices of foreign salt. For the same reason the exports from Bengal to Assam, Northern India, and Foreign States beyond the northern border, rose from 10,45,767 maunds to 11,36,837 maunds, giving an excess over the imports of 7,07,717 maunds, against 4,93,539 maunds in 1893-94.

10. The total number of cases in which contraband salt was confiscated, including those in the Orissa district, rose from 1,071 to 1,096 during the past year, and the quantity confiscated from 285 maunds to 295 maunds. In Midnapore the cases were 227 against 175, but the quantities seized were in all cases extremely small, amounting only to 7½ maunds in 1894-95 against 6 maunds in 1893-94. In Orissa the quantities were larger, 205 maunds, but they consisted exclusively of salt-earth and brine, and the average seizure, which amounted to 15 seers, is equivalent therefore to only about 4 seers of manufactured salt. The number of cases instituted in the courts was 967, chiefly for illicit manufacture and possession, against 1,005 in 1893-94, and 988 persons were convicted. The rewards disbursed amounted to Rs. 6,061. The whole question of illicit manufacture in the saliferous tracts of Bengal outside Orissa is now under consideration in connection with Mr. Ashton's report.

11. As usual, the Board devote a separate part of their report to the administration of the Salt Department in Orissa. The following table shows the consumption of salt during the last five years, and its rate per head of the population, an allowance

being made for a yearly increase of 10·45 per mille upon the figures of the census of 1891:—

YEAR.	Locally manufac- tured.	Sold from local manufac- tories.	Imported from Calcutta.	Imported from Ganjam.	Total consump- tion.	Rate per head.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
1890-91	61,765	1 30,572	2,84,033	3,11,257	7,25,862	10·42
1891-92	8,554	18,866	2,51,971	4,43,071	7,13,908	10·12
1892-93	52,962	81,329	2,76,498	3,37,423	6,95,160	9·75
1893-94	15,422	24,460	2,85,984	4,48,913	7,59,317	10·54
1894-95	2,10,628	38,715	2,75,764	3,51,714	6,56,193	9·16

For the first time since 1890, the Madras Administration has been successful in making salt in the Government factory on the Chilka Lake, owing to the dryness of the season, which lasted till well into June 1894; of this quantity, 38,715 maunds were sold during the year, and the rest remained in stock. But here their success ended. The attempt to increase the consumption of licit salt was a greater failure than ever. The rate consumed per head reached the lowest figure attained in the last five years, and indeed the lowest figure on record, being far smaller than was ever registered in any year when Orissa was in the charge of the Bengal Board of Revenue. And this was accomplished as the result of entertaining an establishment which (including manufacturing expenses) cost Rs. 1,54,023. The total sale of salt, 6,66,193 maunds, was less than in any year since the Madras Salt Department has been in charge, with the exception of 1888-89. Were it not, therefore, for the raising of the duty on salt from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2·8 per maund, the Government would obtain less revenue than it did when the preventive work was in the hands of the police. These facts go to bear out the indictment preferred against the Madras management in last year's Resolution. The whole question of retransferring to Bengal the administration of the Orissa Salt Department, with the exception of the manufacture of Government salt on the Chilka Lake, will be referred for the consideration of Government of India.

12. The thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor are again due to the Board for their careful supervision of the department.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. H. RISLEY,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

FIRST FORECAST OF THE BHADOI CROPS IN BENGAL 1895.

The following is published for general information.

REV. DEPT.,
The 8th October 1895.

C. E. BOCKLAND,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRI- CULTURE, BENGAL.

First forecast of the bhadoi crops in Bengal, 1895 (based on returns forwarded in the middle of September 1895).

Explanatory.—The classification of crops adopted in the present forecast is the same as that followed in the final report on the bhadoi crops in Bengal 1894, except that bhadoi til has been shown under a separate heading, in order that complete returns for oilseeds may be available for the Provincial returns of Agricultural Statistics published by this Department. The crops included in the appended returns are (1) bhadoi food crops with separate figures for bhadoi paddy, maize, millets, and other cereals and pulses, and (2) bhadoi non-food crops with separate figures for bhadoi til and indigo.

2. *Character of the season.*—The outturn of the bhadoi crops is determined by the rainfall from April to September.

The rainfall in April was well distributed and generally above the normal.

In the early part of the month of May the rainfall was abundant. During the last half of May, heavy rain fell in East Bengal, but in other districts the fall was less than the average. For the whole month of May, East Bengal and the greater part of North Bengal and North Bihar received more than the normal fall, while West Bengal, Central Bengal, South Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur, received less than the normal fall. In June, the rainfall was altogether abnormal. East and North Bengal received less than half the usual rain. In West and Central Bengal and parts of Bihar, the rainfall was short, but Chota Nagpur received more than the normal fall, and Orissa double the normal fall.

In July, throughout Central and Western Bengal, in South Bihar, except Shahabad, and in Orissa, the rainfall was deficient; while in North Bengal and in North Bihar the rainfall was in excess. In August, the rainfall in Bihar and Orissa was normal or a little above the normal, while in Bengal and in Chota Nagpur, it was less than the normal.

In the first week of September, the rainfall was much below the normal in all districts of these Provinces, especially in East and North Bengal. In the second week of September, heavy rain fell in East and North Bengal; elsewhere the rainfall was short of the normal. There was general rain during the third week of September, the falls being heaviest in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, Bihar and South-West Bengal.

Floods are reported to have done some injury to the *bhadoi* crops in Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Pabna, Dacca and Mymensingh.

3. *Area cultivated.*—The total area cultivated with *bhadoi* crops during the season under review, as shown in the appended returns, amounts to 15,678,600 acres against 15,920,100 acres estimated to have been cultivated with *bhadoi* crops in 1894. The decrease in area is nominal and requires no explanation. The areas occupied by *bhadoi* food crops during the season under report was about 77 per cent. of the total *bhadoi* area, *bhadoi* paddy representing about 45 per cent. of the whole area.

4. *Character of the crop.*—From the appended statement, it will appear that taking all the *bhadoi* crops together, one only out of the 45 districts of these Provinces,

* Rangpur, Pabna, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Angul and Khondmals and Huzaribagh.

† Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Chittagong and Puri.

viz., Tippera returns a 17-anna crop; 8 districts* return an average crop of 16 annas; 25 districts return crops varying from 12 to less than 16 annas, and 11 districts† show crops under 12 annas. On comparing these

figures with the estimates of outturn of the crop of 1893, as shown in column 8 of the appended returns, it will be seen that 20 districts report a better crop this year, 3 districts report equal crops, and 22 districts report worse crops. The general outturn of the *bhadoi* crops of the current year according to present estimates may therefore be expected to be the same as that of last year, or 15 annas for these Provinces as a whole.

A separate estimate of the jute crop has been published. The indigo crop, so far as regards outturn of plant, has been very good in Bihar and fair in Bengal. The season is reported, however, to have been bad for manufacture in Bihar; and the outturn of indigo has probably been less than that of last year.

N. N. BANERJEE,

Assistant Director of Land Records and
Agriculture, Bengal.

(Countersigned)

W. C. MACPHERSON,

Director of Land Records and

First Forecast of the Bhadoi Crops in Bengal, 1895.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Name of Bhadoi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified Bhadoi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified Bhadoi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified Bhadoi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Bardham	1,725,000	1,302,000	Bhadoi paddy Indian corn (maize) Other Bhadoi cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Indigo Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	172,700 3,000 8,100 700 2,900 6,000 19,200	172,700 3,000 7,700 600 2,900 5,800 15,200	165,700 3,000 6,000 -600 2,900 5,700 15,000	131 151 151 14 10 12 12	104 14 14 10 10 91	The Collector returns 1,302,000 acres in column 3, against 1,283,900 acres returned by him last year.	
Birbhum	1,151,000	805,000	Total Bhadoi paddy Indian corn (maize) Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	213,500 140,000 8,000 1,800 2,500	211,400 130,000 3,600 1,300 2,000	203,700 120,000 1,300 1,300 2,000	131 10 15 10 10	104 10 15 10 10	In the Sadar subdivision, owing to insufficient rainfall, the prospects of Bhadoi crops are not good. In the Katwa subdivision, for want of rain the outturn will be less than last year's. Owing to deficient and late rainfall, all the lands in the Katwa subdivision could not be sown. A portion of cultivated land was affected totally by scanty rains, and so the plants did not develop. In the Raniganj subdivision, the late rainfall affected the paddy and the non-food crops to some extent, and hence the outturn is expected to be less in almost all cases. Owing to deficient and untimely rainfall, there has been a decrease in the area under cultivation, and consequently the outturn will be affected. If sufficient rain falls now to keep the crops growing, it will hardly exceed 10 annas, otherwise it will be below 10 annas. Indian corn grows better in year of deficient rainfall. The decrease in the area under Bhadoi rice is also due to the extension of cultivation of the amos or winter rice.	Last year, the area in column 3 was returned as 900,000 acres.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhadoi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Bankura	1,677,440	642,800	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy ... Rajma ... Masur ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other <i>bhadoi</i> cereals and pulses ... Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables), ... Bhadon fig ... Indigo ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	24,760 800 1,200 4,200 9,200 800 2,100 2,200 2,200 2,600	21,900 800 1,000 4,200 7,900 800 1,700 2,200 2,200 2,700	14,800 600 1,000 2,000 6,300 800 1,600 2,200 2,600	Annas: 10 13 16 10 16 16	Annas: 10 13 16 10 16 16	The figures shown in columns 5 and 6 differ considerably from those reported last year. It is reported that in the previous years the Police made an incorrect estimate of the acreage under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop. This year approximately correct figures have been obtained. The cultivation of all the crops except that of indigo could not reach the normal owing to the scanty and unequal distribution of the rainfall of the year.	
Midnapore	2,261,000	2,111,500	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy ... Rajma ... Masur ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other <i>bhadoi</i> cereals and pulses ... Total	119,770 7,000 3,200 22,000 63,000	110,200 6,000 1,900 21,000 46,000	90,700 6,000 1,600 22,000 49,000	Annas: 11 14 16 16 16	Annas: 10 12 14 16 16	The normal area has been reduced from 343,500 to 342,700 acres, the latter being considered to be the correct figure by latest calculation. Owing to insufficient rainfall, the area brought under cultivation has been less than the normal area as well as the area cultivated last year, and on the whole the outturn is likely to be the same as that of last year. Of 11,500 acres shown under <i>bhadoi</i> tillage, 1,800 acres were shown last year under head "other <i>bhadoi</i> cereals," and 10,000 acres under "other non-food."	

From the Census Report of 1891, it appears that the area of the district is 1,08,340 acres. The area in column 3 as shown last year was 149 acres more than that now returned by the Collector.

Mooply	1,008,000	702,200	Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables),	27,000	22,500	22,800	11	11	11
			Bhadol (e.g.,)	11,500	11,500	10,500	9	9	12
			Indigo	50,700	40,000	45,200	16	11	11
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	44,000	23,000	25,000	11	11	11
			Total	342,700	204,700	291,000	12	12	12
De-Parganas	1,344,640	1,233,000	Bhadol paddy	84,000	62,700	59,700	11	11	8
			Indigo corn (maize)	100	100	100	10	10	94
			Other bhados cereals and pulses.	3,100	2,500	2,000	10	10	8
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	2,400	1,900	1,800	13	13	11
			Bhadol (e.g.,)	1,200	300	200	11	11	94
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	28,400	24,000	27,000	12	12	12
			Total	131,800	76,900	65,100	11	9	
			Bhadol paddy	108,700	107,200	94,800	13	11	
			Other bhados cereals and pulses.	2,000	700	100	10	11	
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	4,800	4,000	2,000	6	94	
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	42,000	25,000	35,200	13	13	
			Total	154,000	147,000	139,000	13	11	

The decrease in the area cultivated with Bhados paddy this year is due to scanty rain-fall during the sowing season. Fair rainfall has increased the area cultivated with Bhados cereals and pulses as well as the estimated outturn. The decrease in the area under other Bhados food-crops is due to want of rainfall during the sowing time, but a fair amount of rain-fall after the growth of plants has increased the estimated outturn. This year's outturn under other Bhados non-food-crops is expected to be worse than that of last year owing to want of rain during the sowing as well as during the reaping time.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Name of bhadoi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Mafia ...	1,788,160	1,303,000	Bhadoi paddy (maize) Indian corn (maize) Other bhadoi cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Bhadoi oil ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	250,000 7,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	250,000 1,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	250,000 1,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	Annas. 14 10 13 14 14 13 14	Annas. 9 10 11 12 11 11 12	Want of sufficient and reasonable rainfall accounts for the decrease in the area under, as also in the outturn of the bhadoi crop this year.	
Murchidabad...	1,372,160	985,500	Bhadoi paddy (maize) Indian corn (maize) Other bhadoi cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Bhadoi oil ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	250,000 7,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	250,000 1,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	250,000 1,000 40,500 20,500 6,000 22,100 47,000	Annas. 14 10 13 14 14 13 14	Annas. 9 10 11 12 11 11 12	The decrease in area in comparison with the last year's and the normal area is due to want of sufficient rain during the sowing season.	From the Census Report of 1891, it appears that the area of the district is 1,353,400 acres.
			Total	332,100	347,000	301,300	IV	IV		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of bhadoi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Dinajpur	2,654,000	1,744,000	Bhados partly ... Jowar ... Mandua ... Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables), Bhados til ... Indigo ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special fore- casts.	150,000 7,000 7,000 100 100 100 90,000	150,000 7,000 7,000 100 100 100 90,500	150,000 7,000 7,000 100 100 100 90,600	Annas: 9 15 15 10 10 13 13	Annas: 16 15 15 12 12 10 13	The area under "other food-crops," "bhados til" and "other non-food-crops" was not included in last year's return whereas it has been shown in this, hence the increase. The increase in the outturn of these crops is due to the timely rainfall of the year.	From the Census Report of 1891, it appears that the area of the district is 2,655,500 acres.
Jalpaiguri	1,005,000	1,004,000	Bhados partly ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other bhados cereals and pulses, Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables), Bhados til ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special fore- casts.	100,000 2,000 4,000 5,000 100 80,000	100,000 2,000 4,000 5,000 100 80,100	100,000 2,000 4,300 5,100 100 80,300	Annas: 13 10 11 12 8 13	Annas: 12 10 11 11 8 11	The increase in area shown in column 3 is due to increase of cultivation in the Thana. Heavy rains and floods are attributed as causes of bad outturn on the average in this year.	
			Total ...	264,400	263,500	265,400	12	11		

Darjeeling	144,900	189,400	Shaded paddy Mandua Indian corn (maize) Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables) Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecast.	28,500 7,700 17,700 4,500 15,300	32,000 5,300 32,300 4,500 15,300	32,000 5,300 32,300 4,500 15,300	12 14 14 14 13	Better outturn attributed to sufficient and well distributed rain.	
			Total	77,500	78,800	79,800	13	14	
Rangpur	3,331,040	1,009,700	Shaded paddy Indian corn (maize) Other <i>dhadi</i> cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Indigo Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special fore- cast.	378,400 100 91,000 23,700 7,700 286,300	286,100 100 91,000 23,700 6,600 286,300	278,400 100 91,000 23,700 7,000 286,300	15 16 12 13 14 14	Rainfall on the whole satisfactory; an average outturn is expected.	
			Total	694,900	701,800	683,500	14	16	
Meerut	887,945	481,000	Shaded paddy Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special fore- cast.	140,000 76,000	108,000 100,000	103,000 109,000	8 14	16 13	Sufficient rainfall at the time of ploughing and sowing and sudden floods in early July damaged the crop to a great extent.
			Total	216,000	206,000	208,000	11	11½	
Punjab	1,176,900	886,500	Shaded paddy Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecast.	185,250 192,000 312,800	124,000 148,800 248,100	123,000 108,700 178,500	11 10 14	16 16 17	There would have been a bumper crop, but the rivers rose rather too suddenly in July and some of the paddy on the low lands was submerged. The crop is an average one. Last year's crop was probably considerably under estimated. Seasonable mid-fall accounts for the better outturn. The decrease in area is due to the fact that the area under hemp cultivation has not been shown as it is a winter crop. The cultivation of udigo is nominal.
			Total	440,000	454,900	467,300	11½	16	

From the Census Report of 1891, it appears that the area of the district is 829,300 acres.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Name of bhadoi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified bhadoi crop in acres.	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Dacca ...	1,750,400	997,700	Bhadoi paddy ... Other bhadoi cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Bhadoi oil Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	174,900 1,000 50,300 300 219,300	165,500 500 45,300 200 211,500	165,500 500 45,300 200 175,300	Annas 14 9 12 10 13	Annas 12 9 11 1/2 10 14	Owing partly to the scanty rainfall in May and June and partly to the sudden rise of the rivers, the outturn was less than last year's. The normal area has been ascertained to be 50,300 and not 62,700 as shown last year. Owing to favourable weather the outturn was better than in last year.	
Mymensingh ...	4,052,480	2,405,700	Bhadoi paddy ... Other bhadoi cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	370,500 58,000 41,500 572,300	353,000 55,000 30,500 500,500	353,000 55,000 30,500 500,500	Annas 14 9 15	Annas 14 14	Owing to the sudden rise of the river the crops on low lands were slightly damaged. Hence the outturn is expected to be less than that of last year.	
			Total ..	1,053,100	1,009,000	1,009,000	15	14		

Particular	1,440,420	1,012,900	945,000	240,400	206,500	16	16	14	
Bhados paddy			100	100					
Other bhados cereals and pulses.			500	500					
Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).			1,000	1,000					
Indigo			86,300	86,300					
Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.									
Total			432,800	432,800	391,400	16	16	15	
Buckergunge...	1,335,300	1,343,200	253,500	253,500	253,500	14	14	122	
Bhados paddy			4,400	4,400	6,400			11	
Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.									
Total			250,900	250,900	259,900	14	14	124	
Tippers	1,304,340	1,167,300	341,100	302,000	256,700	20	20	17	
Bhados paddy									
Other bhados cereals and pulses.			300	13,500	4,900	15	15	14	
Bhados &c			3,000	3,000	2,000			14	
Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.			92,500	256,300	247,600	18	18	15	
Total			336,600	644,800	512,100	19	19	17	

The increase in area in columns 2, 3, 5 and 7 is due to transfer of 15 square miles of char lands from Dacca to this district. The return of bhados crops in Madaniur which abounds in low tracts has been bumper, but in Sadar and Goalundo it is below the average. Hence the estimate for the entire district has been made at 14 annas. The bhados paddy suffered to a certain extent owing to insufficient rainfall during the growing season.

Owing to scanty rainfall in some parts of the district, this year's outturn is expected to be worse than that of last year.

The decrease in the area under heads bhados paddy and cereals and pulses is due to the fact that there were bumper rice crops last year, and that there is plenty of rice in stock, and therefore lands under these crops last year have this year been sown with jute. Besides, the cultivators last year were in bad circumstances owing to the scarcity of the present year, and hence they sowed all available lands with rice and cereals.

The decrease in area under head bhados &c is trifling and does not call for remarks. The decrease in the outturn is due to want of timely rainfall.

The increase in the area under head other non-food-crops, is due to the increase of area cultivated under jute crops as stated above.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhadoi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 10 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Record and Agr. culture, Bengal.
Meakhal	1,052,500	515,000	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy Other <i>bhadoi</i> cereals and pulses. Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special fore- casts. Total	200,000 2,500 9,500 215,700	200,000 2,500 9,500 215,700	202,000 2,600 9,500 214,700	Annas. 10 8 13 17½	Annas. 14 8 14 14½	In the Sadar subdivision, owing to insuffi- cient rainfall, the outturn of <i>bhadoi</i> paddy is estimated to be less than that of last year and owing to good rainfall during the out- turn of May (time of growing) the out- turn of <i>bhadoi</i> pulses and jute is expected to be better. In the Penny subdivision for want of rain at the time of sowing and some time after, the whole approximate normal area under the <i>bhadoi</i> crops could not be sown, hence the difference between this and last year's return.	From the Census Report of 1881, it appears that the area of the district is 1,690,529 acres.
Chittagong	1,504,841	865,000	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy Other <i>bhadoi</i> cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts. Total	92,200 3,000 17,900 14,900 126,000	75,800 2,500 16,800 11,500 106,600	76,000 2,000 16,000 11,100 105,100	15 10 10 10 23	10 8 10 13 30	The decrease in area and outturn is due to want of timely rainfall this year.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhadol</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Barrackpore	1,678,083	1,382,500	<i>Bhadol</i> paddy ... Jowar ... Kajra ... Mandua ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses ... Other food-crops (<i>s.g.</i> , vegetables), Indigo ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	40,100 30,000 35,000 81,000 283,500 64,500 19,700 51,000 46,000	40,100 27,300 43,500 101,300 283,500 21,100 19,700 51,000 73,100 46,000	41,100 30,000 35,000 81,400 283,500 64,500 19,700 51,000 73,100 46,000	Annas 144	Annas 16	This year's outturn will be better owing to favourable rainfall.	From the Census Report of 1891, it appears that the area of the district is 1,697,920 acres.
			Total ...	672,500	641,900	623,600	144	16		
Champani	2,000,000	1,402,000	<i>Bhadol</i> paddy ... Mandua ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses ... Other food-crops (<i>s.g.</i> , vegetables), <i>Bhadol</i> rice ... Indigo ...	448,000 1,000 100,000 4,000 21,000 2,000 24,000	442,000 1,000 100,000 4,000 20,900 2,000 24,000	442,000 1,000 100,000 4,000 20,900 2,000 24,000	14 15 17 16 16 16 19	16 16 16 16 16 16 14	Owing to timely rainfall, the <i>bhadol</i> paddy was sown as widely as last year and is expected to yield a better outturn. Excessive rainfall during August retarded the growth of Indian corn to a certain extent and the Indigo "Khushi" crop has suffered for the same reason.	

Manufactures ...	1,921,920	1,445,000	Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.					4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	15	16	15	16	
			Total ...													
			Bhadol paddy	...	...	...	...	...	704,000	706,000	706,000	706,000	154	154		
			Jowar	...	...	...	...	...	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000				
			Mandua	...	...	...	...	...	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000				
			Indian corn (maize)	...	...	...	...	...	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000				
			Other Bhadol cereals and pulses.	...	...	...	...	...	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000				
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	...	...	...	...	...	168,000	169,000	169,000	169,000				
			Indigo	...	...	...	...	...	97,000	97,000	97,000	97,000	18	18	16	16
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	...	...	...	...	...	137,000	137,000	137,000	137,000				
				35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000				
			Total	...	...	...	...	...	806,000	806,000	806,000	806,000	13	13	16	16
			Bhadol paddy	...	...	...	...	...	66,100	66,100	66,100	66,100				
			Mandua	...	...	...	...	...	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800				
			Indian corn (maize)	...	...	...	...	...	141,700	143,600	143,600	143,600	10	10	13	13
			Other Bhadol cereals and pulses.	...	...	...	...	...	22,300	18,500	18,500	18,500	16	16	16	16
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	...	...	...	...	...	28,000	23,900	23,900	23,900	13	13	13	13
			Indigo	...	...	...	...	...	97,900	93,500	93,500	94,300	12	12	12	12
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	...	...	...	...	...	22,800	23,300	23,300	23,400	18	18	16	16
								14	14	14	14
			Total	...	...	...	...	...	644,500	598,000	598,000	598,300	16	16	14	14

The weather was more favourable and rainfall more evenly distributed and opportune than in the previous year and hence a full crop is expected.

In the final report on the Bhadol crops of 1884, the areas under Bhadol cereals and pulses were shown as 12,000 acres which represented only Bhadol pulses. In this return, both Bhadol pulses and cereals have been shown.

Owing to insufficient rainfall at the time of sowing, the area sown this year is in some cases less than that of last year.

The weather was more favourable and rainfall more evenly distributed and opportune than in the previous year and hence a full crop is expected. In the final report on the Bhadol crops of 1894, the areas under Bhadol cereals and pulses were shown as 12,000 acres which represented only Bhadol pulses. In this return, both Bhadol pulses and cereals have been shown.

Owing to insufficient rainfall at the time of sowing, the area sown this year is in some cases less than that of last year.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhadol</i> crops.	Approximate <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Mirzapur	2,502,446	1,682,800	<i>Bhadol</i> paddy Jowar Mandua Indian corn (maize) Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables). <i>Bhadol</i> fit Indigo non-food-crops. Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	118,400 41,400 50,200 492,200 25,800 19,300 400 24,000	100,500 41,200 47,000 397,000 23,000 19,100 400 22,000	109,000 41,200 43,100 397,200 23,000 19,100 400 22,000	Annas. 10 1/2 10 10 1/2 9 10 12 10 1/2	Annas. 10 1/2 16 15 1/2 15 1/2 9 10 16 10 1/2	The rainfall has all along been favourable and the out-turn is expected to be a fair one. Last year, the crops suffered very much from the Ganges floods.	
Total				689,900	687,400	687,200	10 1/2	15 1/2		
Bhagalpur	2,704,000	2,007,000	<i>Bhadol</i> paddy Jowar Mandua Indian corn (maize) Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	317,000 52,000 123,100 242,000 43,700 2,000	314,700 52,000 123,100 242,000 43,700 2,000	316,700 52,000 123,100 242,000 43,700 2,000	16 16 15 14 16 16	16 14 15 16 15 14	As there were no floods this year, and the rainfall up to date is well distributed, the prospect of maize grown on marsh lands is decidedly better this year. Marua and Indico suffered to some extent, or want of rain in the beginning of the season.	

Purnee	3,195,330	1,730,000	Indigo	13,000	13,000	13,000	15	14	<p>The rainfall was scanty at the beginning, but afterwards sufficient hence an average outturn is expected. The increase in area under the heading <i>Bhadol</i> paddy is in the Kishansal subdivision, and is due to the fact that fallow lands of last year have been brought under cultivation this year. The figures under the last heading, non-food crops, were wrongly compiled last year. They have been corrected this year.</p>
			Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	40,000	40,000	40,000	16	16	
			Total ..	53,000	53,000	53,000	15	15	
			Bhadol paddy ..	649,400	545,300	530,400	16	16	
			Mandua ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	16	16	
			Indian corn (maize) ..	3,500	4,000	4,000	16	16	
			Other <i>Bhadol</i> cereals and pulses.	2,500	3,500	3,500	16	16	
			Other food-crops (e.g. vegetables).	30,500	19,100	19,100	16	16	
			<i>Bhadol</i> &c ..	300	300	300	16	16	
			Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	37,100	46,000	46,000	16	17	
Malda	1,316,000	811,500	Indigo	675,500	694,100	704,800	16	16	<p>The outturn of the <i>Bhadol</i> crops is not expected to be more than 13 annas, owing to insufficient rainfall.</p>
			Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	13,000	13,000	12,000	14	13	
			Total ..	688,500	707,100	716,800	16	16	
			Bhadol paddy ..	12,000	12,000	12,000	14	13	
			Jowar ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	13	13	
			Bajra ..	4,000	4,000	4,000	13	13	
			Indian corn (maize) ..	20,000	20,000	20,000	13	13	
			Other <i>Bhadol</i> cereals and pulses.	20,000	20,000	20,000	13	13	
			Other food-crops (e.g. vegetables).	5,000	5,000	5,000	16	13	
			<i>Bhadol</i> &c ..	3,800	3,800	3,800	13	13	
			Indigo ..	90,000	90,000	90,000	13	13	
			Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	25,500	25,500	25,500	16	13	
			Total ..	115,500	115,500	115,500	13	13	
			Bhadol paddy ..	12,000	12,000	12,000	14	13	
			Jowar ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	13	13	
			Bajra ..	4,000	4,000	4,000	13	13	
			Indian corn (maize) ..	20,000	20,000	20,000	13	13	
			Other <i>Bhadol</i> cereals and pulses.	20,000	20,000	20,000	13	13	
			Other food-crops (e.g. vegetables).	5,000	5,000	5,000	16	13	
			<i>Bhadol</i> &c ..	3,800	3,800	3,800	13	13	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.			Names of <i>bhadol</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadol</i> crop in acres.	Taking 1d annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 1d annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.								
Central Provinces.	3,500,100	1,857,300	<i>Bhadol</i> paddy Jowar Majra Mandua Indian corn (maize) Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , vegetables). <i>Bhadol</i> oil Indigo Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecast.	64,700 6,000 8,500 18,700 196,800 37,000 1,900 4,300 5,700 20,800	64,500 6,400 8,800 15,800 196,000 36,800 1,900 4,300 5,700 20,400	64,100 6,000 8,800 15,100 196,900 35,000 1,900 4,300 5,700 20,300	Annas. 15 12 14 14 13 13 12 16 11 11	Annas. 13 10 13 13 11 11 14 16 11 11	The distribution of rain was favourable for the <i>bhadol</i> crops generally. The outturn will be about the same as last year.	The area now shown in column 8 is 100 acres more than that returned by the Deputy Commissioner last year.
Output.	2,325,130	1,101,300	Total	363,700	360,800	346,000	13	14		
			<i>Bhadol</i> paddy Mandua Other <i>bhadol</i> cereals and pulses. Other food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , vegetables).	103,500 15,100 6,300 3,000	157,000 14,100 6,800 3,000	118,200 12,500 4,200 3,700	9 10 11 11	13 12 13 10	The outturn this year is expected to be better than last year's on account of timely rainfall.	The area sown this year is less than in the last year on account of scanty rainfall at the time of sowing.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhadoi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhadoi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Hazratnagar	4,493,440	2,478,500	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy ... Mandua ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other cereals and pulses ... Other food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , vegetables). Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	43,300 105,100 217,300 131,300 1,300 76,100	43,300 105,100 217,300 131,300 1,300 76,100	43,300 105,100 217,300 131,300 1,300 76,100	16 11 7 8 14 13	16 16 16 16 16 16	Owing to favourable and well distributed rainfall an average outturn (16 annas) is expected in respect of each of the crops shown in this forecast.	
Lehardaga	4,169,000	3,803,300	<i>Bhadoi</i> paddy ... Bajra ... Mandua ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other cereals and pulses ... Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	842,900 8,000 9,000 8,000 86,000 221,600	842,900 8,000 9,000 8,000 86,000 221,600	842,900 8,000 9,000 8,000 86,000 221,600	13 12 12 12 12 13	16 16 16 16 16 16	The slight increase in the outturn is due to seasonable rainfall.	
			Total	1,173,400	1,173,400	1,173,400	13	13		

Palaman ..	3,130,900	768,000	Bhadai paddy	40,000	23,700	23,000	16	Increase in area sown and in the outturn is due to timely rainfall.	16				
			Bajra	2,600	400	600	3		3				
			Mandua	25,000	9,300	30,000	5		12				
			Indian corn (maize) ..	93,000	13,900	10,000	2		14				
			Other cereals and pulses.	29,000	11,400	14,900	6		13				
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	12,000	1,100	500	0		13				
			Bhadai til	9,500	5,500	6,000	14		15				
			Other non-food-crops including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	44,000	3,900	4,500	5		13				
			Total	265,500	68,200	82,000	7		13				
			Mambhum ..	2,654,660	965,500	Bhadai paddy	4,000		4,000	4,000	12	The increase in the outturn this year is due to seasonable rainfall from the beginning.	16
Bajra	10,000	10,000				10,000	8	16					
Mandua	12,000	12,000				12,000	8	16					
Indian corn (maize) ..	22,000	22,000				22,000	8	16					
Other cereals and pulses.	22,400	22,400				22,400	8	16					
Indigo*	2,800	2,800				.....	10	.....				
Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	67,500	67,500				67,500	6	13					
Total	140,700	140,700				137,900	8	16					
Singphum ..	2,454,720	1,182,100				Bhadai paddy	65,300	64,300	65,300	14	The increase in this year's area and outturn is due to seasonable rainfall.		15
						Jowar	6,000	4,000	6,000				
			Bajra	1,300	1,300	1,300							
			Mandua	62,700	61,000	62,700							
			Indian corn (maize) ..	11,400	11,300	11,700							
			Other cereals and pulses.	10,700	10,700	10,700							
			Other food-crops (e.g., vegetables).	18,700	17,300	18,700							
			Bhadai til	7,800	6,300	6,500							
			Other non-food-crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts.	9,700	9,300	9,700							
			Total	124,000	125,400	121,900	14	15					

In the Census Report of 1891, the area of the district has been shown as 2,661,590 acres.

Indigo was not cultivated this year.

In the Census Report of 1891, the area of the district has been shown as 2,401,390 acres.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>bhados</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>bhados</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>bhados</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>bhados</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
All Bengal ...	94,306,883	57,108,109	<i>Bhados</i> paddy ... Jowar ... Bajra ... Mandua ... Indian corn (maize) ... Other cereals and pulses, Other food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> vegetables), <i>Bhados</i> oil ... Indigo ... Other non-food crops, including jute and cotton, as shown in the special forecasts. Total ...	7,452,000 150,100 78,000 1,032,300 4,108,800 1,113,000 633,700 74,200 637,800 2,994,100	7,213,000 165,100 84,100 1,022,900 2,988,400 1,030,300 584,700 68,500 624,400 3,047,500	7,045,100 180,100 76,300 1,012,100 2,039,800 1,071,600 588,600 63,400 624,400 2,957,000	1st 62 13 13 13 13 14 13 16 13	15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	Estimated by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.	
			Total	16,273,000	15,950,100	15,678,000	15°	15°		

N.B. Twenty annas represent a bumper crop, 16 annas an average crop, 12 annas three-fourths of an average crop, and 10 annas.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 7th October, 1895.

Burdwan.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·22. Weather close. Rain still wanted generally, and condition of *aman* rice not good. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at an average price of 16½ seers per rupee.

Midnapore.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·79, Contai 5·01. Tamluk 2·69, Ghatal 1·00. Weather getting cooler. Prospects of *aman* rice favourable in Sadar and Contai. More rain wanted in Tamluk and Ghatal. Prices of common rice:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	...	17
Contai	...	...	...	...	22
Tamluk	...	...	...	...	16
Ghatal	...	...	...	...	14 to 15
					} per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·95. Weather stormy. Prospects of *aman* fair and improved by the late rain. A considerable area of paddy land in the Diamond Harbour subdivision remains unplanted. Harvesting of *aus* completed and that of jute going on. Ploughing for sowing *rabi* crops going on in the Barasat subdivision. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice sells at—

				Srs. c.	
Sadar	...	...	...	13	0
Barasat	...	...	...	15	0
Basirhat	...	...	...	17	7
Diamond Harbour	...	...	...	17	8
					} per rupee.

Murshidabad.—Rainfall 0·46. Weather seasonable. Sowing of *kabai* going on. Jute still being harvested. Transplantation of *aman* finished. Sugarcane and mulberry doing well. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells at 16 seers a rupee.

Khulna.—Rainfall at Khulna 7·40, Bagerhat 9·50, Satkhira 9·58. Weather hot and cloudy; cyclonic on the night of 1st October. Transplantation of *aman* over. Harvesting of *aus* completed, and that of jute still going on in some places. No damage is reported to have been done to the standing crops by the cyclonic weather. The rain has done immense good to them. Fodder and water plentiful. No cattle-disease. Prices of common rice:—

				Srs. c.	
Sadar	...	...	...	...	16 to 21
Bagerhat	...	...	...	...	22
Satkhira	...	...	...	...	15
					} per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Average rainfall 1·89. Weather seasonable. Standing crops good. Price of common rice 15 to 16 seers a rupee. No outbreak of cattle-disease, nor any complaint for fodder or drinking water.

Rangpur.—Average rainfall 2·98. Weather seasonable. Transplantation of *aman* and steeping of jute still going on. Sugarcane doing well. Prospects generally favourable. Common rice selling at 12 to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient. Cattle-disease still prevailing in certain parts of the Nilphamari subdivision.

Pabna.—Rivers falling. Jute harvest in Sadar completed, but in Sirajganj not yet completed. Lands being prepared for *rabi* crops. Prospects of *aman* rice good. Fodder sufficient.

Dacca.—Rainfall 3·58. Cyclone in this district on the 2nd instant. Some damage to huts and trees. *Aman* also somewhat damaged where it was in ear, but this only in parts of the district. Common rice sells at 17 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease. Fodder available.

Chittagong.—Rainfall 7·40. Weather warm. Cyclone on the 2nd instant. Little damage to crops. Transplantation of *aman* nearly finished. Water and fodder sufficient. Rice selling at 15 seers per rupee.

Patna.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·96. Prospects of paddy favourable. *Sathi* rice being harvested. Lands being prepared for *rabi* cultivation. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 20 or 21 seers per rupee.

Gaya.—No rain. Paddy suffering on high lands, but otherwise fairly good. Rain urgently required within few days. *Rabi* preparations begun. Price of common rice risen to 14 seers per rupee, above average.

Champanan.—Rainfall at Motihari 0·78. *Bhdoi* being harvested; 14 annas outturn expected. Prospects of *aghani* good.

Darbhanga.—Rainfall at Sadar 0·18, Samastipur 0·34, Madhubani 0·59. *Bhadoi* harvest nearly over. Prospects of rice very favourable. Fields being prepared for *rabi* sowings. Prices stationary. Fodder plentiful.

Bhagalpur.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Banka 1·03, Madhipura 0·29, Supaul 0·18. Weather bright and cool at night; days still hot. Reaping of *bhadoi* crops continues. Prospects of crops continue to be favourable. Coarse rice selling at 18 seers 15 chitaks per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease.

Purnea.—Rainfall 0·12. *Bhadoi* paddy and jute all out. *Aghani* paddy is doing well, but rain is badly wanted. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling at 22 seers a rupee.

Cuttack.—Rainfall 1·53. Weather seasonable. *Beali* being harvested. *Sarad* doing well. Sowing of *rabi* in progress. Condition of cattle good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells at—

				Srs. c.	
Cuttack	21 0	} per rupee.
Kendrapara	...	...	...	26 4
Jajpur	...	...	...	22 10
Banki	...	...	...	25 0

Hazaribagh.—Rainfall at Sadar 0·38, Giridi 0·17. Prospects of rice crop generally fair. *Rabi* sowings in progress. Cattle-disease in places. Fodder plentiful. Common rice selling at Sadar 13 to 16 seers per rupee and Giridi 14 seers.

General Summary.—There was general rain during the week except in parts of Bihar. In the eastern and central districts the rain was heavy, being accompanied by a cyclone. The cyclone is reported to have done but slight damage to the crops, and the rainfall was generally beneficial. Reports of the winter rice crop continue generally favourable except in parts of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. In Gaya and in Purnea districts, where there has been little or no rain for the last two weeks, more rain is needed. The *bhadoi* harvest is almost complete, and the preparation of lands for the *rabi* sowings is in progress. Cattle-disease is still prevalent in parts of the Nilphamari subdivision of Rangpur. The price of common rice is on the whole stationary, but in Gaya it is reported to have risen from 17 to 14 seers per rupee.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
The 8th October, 1895.

C. E. BUCKLAND,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (RETAIL) OF FOOD-GRAINS, FIREWOOD AND SALT IN THE
HEAD-QUARTERS STATION BAZARS OF THE DISTRICTS OF BENGAL,
DURING THE FORTNIGHT ENDING THE
30th SEPTEMBER 1895.

SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

BAJRA OR CUMBU. (<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i> .)			MARUA OR RAGL. (<i>Elevina Corocana</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.

S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

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